Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Gives Speech on 30th CDR Anniversary

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[Speech by President Fidel Castro during the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, CDR, at Karl Marx Theater in Havana on 28 September—recorded]

[Text] Distinguished guests, dear CDR comrades: I think it is a duty for me to first say that I heard when I got here that thousands of CDR members arrived at the entrance of the theater and were not able to enter because there was not enough room. [applause] I heard that loudspeakers were going to be placed outside if that happened, but it rained. The first thing all of us who have had the privilege of getting into this theater have to do is to ask them to pardon us. I tell those CDR comrades not to be discouraged by that, [applause] I hope they have a happy 30th anniversary day and encourage them to continue with the struggle.

It is better to be here seated, although not all are seated. The halls are full. We can reflect calmly here. This cannot be done in a square. A great deal of effort is required to speak and even to listen in a square. As in the last 26 July, when we mark the 30 years of the existence of the CDR's and the almost 32 years of the revolution, we had never felt such a hot sun and so much heat.

This is a truly historic date. We commemorate it at a truly historic time. It is fine that we meet here, that we do not invest a lot of resources, that we do not spend fuel, that we make our presence evident, and that we can communicate from here with all the CDR members in the country.

We have talked about the beautiful history of the Committees of the Defense of the Revolution. The day when the idea came about for the original and revolutionary people's movement, which has provided the country with so many services, is remembered here. This movement has served the country in many areas, not only in the area of the struggle against the enemy, not only in the area of the fight against the counterrevolution. We have worked for 30 years in this task to defend a revolution that will soon be 32 years old.

We have gone through difficult times, the early years, the fight against bandits, the Bay of Pigs, later the October crisis—which will also be marked in a few days. There has been a lot of talk about the October crisis lately.

Two or three days ago, I read international dispatches which reported that excerpts of an alleged autobiography, or notes written by Khrushchev, had been published in the United States and that they refer to that time. I am said to have advised Khrushchev to launch a preventive attack with nuclear missiles against the United States. Perhaps Khrushchev interpreted that or he may have interpreted in this way some of my messages. But this was really not the case. I am not going to explain it now either, but fortunately I have kept the messages I exchanged with Khrushchev during the most difficult hours of the crisis and subsequent days. I have kept them. I thought that perhaps they could be used for history. However, since so many indiscretions have been made and so many papers have been published, perhaps I will need to publish them so that those messages are known well and that my points of view on this matter during the October crisis are known. [I will have to do this] without waiting too long so that the current generations really know well what Cuba's position was at the time.

Perhaps this is done as an instigation as usual. They have always used or found ways to create animosity and hatred against Cuba within the U.S. public opinion. Things are not the way they are said to be. They are not the way they are said. [repeats] But I maintain the stand that I sustained then, and I would say in the exact same way what I said then. I do not regret in the least what I did nor what I said. It would be good, in the midst of so much gossip and so many people who talk, to make public some of those messages. [applause]

See how the October crisis is still going around. This was a period of time that our people experienced. This was an extremely difficult time that our people experienced in an extraordinary cold-blooded way and with equanimity.

We have experienced all kinds of threats throughout these years. We have conducted extraordinary internationalist missions which will remain for ever as historic evidence of the revolutionary and solidaristic spirit of our people.

So, for us, the revolutionaries, the early ones—I do not want to say the older ones because, who considers himself old here? [laughter] neither the early ones, nor you the younger ones—or intermediate ones as we have here, because here we have old and new CDR members such as the young lady to whom we handed over the identification card, we have all lived through some very interesting experiences. The older ones have experienced them since the Moncada attack and even before. I just handed over a medal to a comrade CDR member and he was the same CDR member who took me, who drove the car in which I traveled before 26 July [applause] from Havana to Santiago. [applause]

We learned about adversity, we learned about prisons, we learned about exile, we learned about expeditions, we learned about misfortune, we learned about practically everything throughout these years. Never did pessimism invade our spirit. There was no discouragement in any of those periods. It is very good, it is very good [repeats] to remember this because those qualities are required from all of us again. When one wants to overcome, when there is the will to overcome, one overcomes. There are no obstacles, no difficulties can stand in the way of the unwaivering will of men and countries. [applause]

This is not new. Our people gave extraordinary proof of that spirit long before our independence. Our people

showed this spirit by fighting for over 10 years in Manigua against one of the most powerful armies of those times. They spent 10 years without shoes. They spent 10 years living off the land. After those 10 years, the immortal symbol of Baragua emerged [interrupted by applause]. After some of them got tired, they gave what truly represented the spirit of our people and they planted it there eternally. That is why the Cubans returned to the struggle and that is why we one day reached complete independence, an independence that today is greater than ever. Even those who sometimes called us satellites, even those who wanted us to obey orders from abroad and who so many times wanted to humiliate us with those strange words, did not offend us because having solidarity is a principle. To be a brother of revolutionaries is a principle. It always has been and always will be so. I hope that those who at one time thought we were satellites no longer have the remotest shadow of a doubt that we were not, are not, or will ever be anyone's satellite. [applause]

We should say that we built this revolution ourselves. No one built it for us. No one defended it for us. No one saved it for us. We did it ourselves. We defended it ourselves. We saved it ourselves and we will continue to do so. We will continue to defend it and we will continue to save it as often as necessary. [applause] We did not ask anyone for permission to build the revolution. We did not count on anyone else. International solidarity emerged. Economic cooperation, cooperation-in-arms arose. It was magnificent, magnificent [repeats himself], beautiful, and we will always be appreciative of this.

However, not long ago there was talk of the explosion of the "Cubre". It was obviously an act of sabotage prepared by the enemy. It was set up to explode when the ship was being unloaded in our docks. It cost the lives of about one hundred workers and soldiers.

Well, at that time, we had not received a single weapon from anyone and we were buying them with our own scarce resources. We distributed them throughout the mountains and we prepared—alone, by ourselves, on our own account, and with our own weapons—our guerrilla war against the imperialist invader which began with threats. When we established our agrarian reform and the laws, the first revolutionary laws, we did not even have economic or political relations with the USSR. We did this ourselves and on our own.

Nevertheless, the existence of the October Revolution was a privilege, as we have said many times. The glorious and thousands-of-times glorious October Revolution, was a fortunate thing, an extraordinary event and action for our revolution and our country. [applause]

Today, when some people even want to smash Lenin statues to pieces, we in our hearts and thoughts see how Lenin's image grows and looms larger. [applause] Lenin and his thought meant and still mean a lot to those of us who have interpreted his thought and the thoughts of Marx and the revolution's theorists in the way that they should be interpreted, in an original manner by each country, by each revolutionary process. That thought maintains all its validity in our revolutionary process at a time in which some people abhor the idea of calling themselves Communists. There are people like this throughout the world in industrial quantities [as heard]. They do not want to call themselves Communists. They call themselves socialists, social-democrats, social-whatever, and social-nothings. [laughter]

Lenin's work will last throughout history. He helped to change the world. Lenin's work led to the emergence of the first socialist state in the history of humanity. That state saved humanity from facism. Without the blood shed by the Soviet people, facism would have been imposed upon the world for at least a short period and a short time. Everyone would have been able to personally learn of the horrors of facism.

That first socialist state meant the development of the people's liberation movement and the end of colonialism. It meant a lot to us when the imperialists wanted to destroy the revolution, when the imperialists blockaded us, and tried to strangle us with hunger. The existence of the Soviet Union, of the socialist bloc, was something of extraordinary value to our country under those circumstances.

Naturally, political and economic relations were established and evolved into truly admirable methods of cooperation, into new forms of relations that meant the end of unequal trade, which meant the application of the best elements of the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

In the first years and over the course of time, economic agreements were established between socialist countries and Cuba, between the Soviet Union and Cuba. When in practice we discovered the phenomenon of unequal trade, when in practice we discovered that the prices of products we imported were constantly rising while the prices of our products remained the same for a five-year period, we established a correlation of prices between what we exported and imported. As the prices rose on the merchandise we imported, the prices of our own products rose. There was never anything more fair than this in the history of economic relations between peoples and in the history of economic relations between industrialized countries and underdeveloped countries that were colonies and that were exploited and kept underdeveloped for centuries of colonialism or neocolonialism. Throughout the years, a basis was established for trade between socialist countries and Cuba, between the USSR and Cuba, which has lasted for many years.

We have been developing our country on those bases. Economic and social development has been formed on those bases, which were very fair, very solid, and spanned many years until our levels of development were similar to the industrial development levels of those countries. That historic period has not concluded. Part of that historic period has ended. Part of that historic phase has passed. Our industries were created on those

bases. Our agriculture was developed and mechanized on those bases. Electricity was established throughout the country on those bases.

At the triumph of the revolution in 1959, only 50 percent of the population had access to electricity and there was a population of 6.5 million people. Only 3.2 million people had access to electricity. Now, 92 percent of our population has access to electricity. Over 9.5 million people have access to electricity. This is three times the number of people who had access to electricity at the time of the triumph of the revolution. Today, electricity reaches the most isolated corners of the country, it has been taken into the mountains, everywhere. Electricity brings a radical change in the way of life.

Our population notably increased its income. Not only did the number of people with electricity increase, but the consumption of electricity per capita increased considerably. Millions of people got all kinds of domestic electrical appliances such as television sets, radios, electric irons, fans, mixers, as many domestic electrical appliances as you can mention.

The five-year plans between socialist countries and us and between the Soviet Union and us were prepared on those basis. Plans for 15 and 20 years were talked about and prepared on those basis. There was a constant exchange of views between the planning organizations of all those countries and us.

All of a sudden, within an extremely brief period of time, the socialist camp disappeared. It is a euphemism to speak of a socialist camp now. Reference is made to the CEMA, the CEMA is still there. It is there as a formality because it hardly ever meets and, to tell you the truth, when it meets I do not know what is going to be discussed. Some of those with which we had established very close relations, such as the GDR, have virtually disappeared. On 3 October—that is in five or six days—it is going to be part of a unified Germany. In other countries they are trying to build capitalism quickly and openly.

So, the country lost those pillars represented by agreements with many of those countries from the socialist camp. Other countries are still struggling to maintain as much as possible the social achievements in the middle of very great difficulties because all these problems affect them.

The USSR is left—when I mention the East Europe countries I do not mention the USSR because I have it in a different category. The USSR is going through a deep political, economic, and social crisis. This is nothing new. We all know about it because of the news that we see in the press. The USSR, of all of the pillars, was the strongest pillar of our economic and social development. We are building a nuclear power plant with the USSR. It was going to have four 400,000-kilowatt reactors. The construction of two of them is at an advanced stage. How much we could use those reactors now! Those reactors have not fallen behind schedule through our own fault. When will they be ready? We do not know. Will they ever be completed? We do not even know that. We built a large nickel production plant with the USSR. We have been building another similar nickel plant in Camarioca with the USSR and other socialist countries. We built large thermoelectric power plants with the USSR. We built the first phase of the oil refinery with the USSR. This has been completed. These are huge investments. I should mention that the country has invested around a billion pesos—between pesos and rubles—in the Moa plant, which is now at a standstill due to a lack of fuel. Tens of thousands of tons of equipment have been installed. Thousands and thousands of homes have been built there. Even an ultramodern hospital is being built there and it is almost finished. We have built roads there, everything to develop the nickel industry in that region.

The refinery, the first phase, was being finished now. It was supposed to be able to refine 3 million [unit of measure not specified] of oil. We cannot even make it run.

We have the work of more than 10,000 men, done over many years, invested in the electronuclear plant and its fate is now uncertain.

That is why we should be very familiar with things, very familiar with how things are. Does the USSR or the Government of the USSR want to hurt us like this? No. The USSR does not want to hurt us like this.

This year, we have a deficit of 2 million tons of fuel supplies and there are a lot of raw materials, which would be too many to list and which are very important, such as industrial raw materials, where significant supply deficits exist. These raw materials have been agreed upon. Contracts were established on them. These materials affect the economy in such areas as fertilizers and many other things.

Has the USSR wanted to harm us like this? No. The Soviet Government has made every effort—and I say this with all honesty—to fulfill the supplies we agreed upon. They have wanted to fulfill these goals. The USSR says that they have made a great effort to do so. They have met their commitments regarding certain items. We have received some machinery, machinery which will now have to be studied. What machinery do we really need? It depends on the availability of fuel. We have continued to receive important products because the USSR has made a great effort. We know it and it is fair to say so.

This has nothing to do with the Yankee position. The Yankees beg the USSR, implore it, tell it, and practically demand, publicly demand—and they do not hide it—that it end economic cooperation with Cuba as a condition to continue improving relations between the USSR and the United States, as a condition for the USSR to receive economic aid from the United States during its difficult times. The United States demands that the USSR end the kind of economic relations it has with Cuba, to end what they call aid, to end what is the result of fair exchange between the two countries. They require this, demand it. They make it a condition. It is an embarrassment. We have been able to observe to what

extremes the imperialists have gone to. It has asked the USSR to please help destroy the Cuban Revolution. It has asked the USSR to please join the U.S. blockade against Cuba because at this time, relations have ended between the socialist camp and Cuba and the USSR and Cuba, and that blockade still exists and it is more rigorous and merciless than ever against our country. Now the United States, which has not been able to beat us, which has not been able to defeat us, is asking the USSR to join the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

That is not what the Government of the Soviet Union thinks. That is not what the Soviet leaders think. There are some people in the USSR who are delighted with the idea. There are some people in the USSR who think that this is the perfect time to curry favor with the empire, to end the bases of economic relations that exist between the USSR and Cuba. Some people think this way and not only do they think it, but some of them have expressed this to the Yankees. They have expressed this to Yankee officials. They have given themselves the responsibility of saying this everywhere. We learn of these things because we are not stupid, deaf, maimed, or blind. And of course, we always receive the news. Some of them have said this, and they have not only said it to the Yankees; they have said it to others. We know this.

However, that is not the Soviet Government's way of thinking. Even amid its problems and difficulties, it has made great efforts to meet its commitments to our country. Nevertheless, to date, we do not know what the bases of our trade with the USSR will be next year. No one knows at this time how much they are going to pay for our sugar, for our products. What price are we going to be charged for the products supplied by the USSR? What amount of fuel are we going to receive? No one knows this at this time, although practically only three months remain before the end of the year.

In the past, we would have five-year plans that were drafted over a period of time. Agreements were reached almost a year ahead of time, a great time in advance. At this point, we would have reached agreements for almost all the merchandise, but right now, very few agreements have been reached. We know nothing at this time, only three months away from 1991.

Of course, fuel is one of the most sensitive areas, because this situation is aggravated by the Persian Gulf crisis. This crisis has been a tragedy for the world, but in particular for Cuba, because the price of oil, which had been 14 pesos a barrel before the crisis, today is approximately 40 pesos. Imagine if we are asked to pay this crisis price [precio coyuntural] for oil, while being expected to receive the garbage-dump price for sugar, the so-called price on the world market, which does not exist anywhere. In the economic relations between the EEC and the countries from which it buys sugar—even when they have a sugar surplus—the price is not the so-called world market price.

Just imagine what the union of those two factors mean: the crisis in the USSR, and the crisis in the Gulf. Where can we find a ton [as heard] of oil in those conditions, and at what price? And when oil prices spiral upward outrageously, this always works to the detriment of the prices of the basic products of the Third World countries. It produces a reduction in the prices of the other products, because those high oil prices cause a recession. There is a reduction in the demand for the other products. The governments do not have enough money to even operate. The countries have no resources; they have to devote almost all their resources to oil, and consequently, they have much less resources to buy other products.

You can see that at those prices, two tons of sugar would be required to buy a ton of oil. You know how much is involved in producing a ton of sugar, starting when the sugarcane is planted. The soil is prepared, the sugarcane is planted, cleaned, and cut, then the sugar is produced and shipped. Our country had reached—on the basis of those agreements, on the basis of our relations with the USSR—a consumption level of 13 million tons. Imagine having sugar at the world market price, and oil at the world market price, this special price, because oil does not have just a crisis price, it has privileged prices. It has monopoly prices. Cuba would need 26 million tons of sugar—26 million—just to purchase the 13 million tons of fuel that the country would need. In other words, almost all the sugar that is sold in the world, or even more than is sold. Because, while oil had increased in price considerably in the 1970's as a result of one of those crises in the Middle East—one of those wars—reaching a price of $20, $25, and even $30 a ton, with incalculable disruption to the world, it had recently begun to decline in price. But while oil had increased to 15 times its price, while oil is now 20 times its traditional price, sugar is at its usual price. In other words, in comparing sugar and oil today, we would have one at its usual garbage-dump price, compared with a monopolistic crisis price that is 20 times greater than the usual price.

In 1960 and 1961, at the triumph of the revolution, the price of oil was $2 a barrel, $15 a ton. Today, a barrel costs almost three times more than what a ton used to cost. That is a fact. No product in the world is more overpriced than oil. The imperialists talked a lot about how we were being paid a very high price for sugar, but oil has had, and still has a price that is incomparably more inflated than sugar.

We have been selling sugar to the USSR at a price that is more or less equivalent to the production cost of a ton of sugar in the USSR, at times for even less than the production cost of a ton of sugar in the USSR. As a matter of fact, the price that we have paid for oil in recent years is much higher than the production cost of a ton of oil. Actually, oil is one of the world's privileged products, with an inflated price that is many times the cost of production.

Therefore, this is the kind of problem that we are facing, without being at all at fault. After all, we have made enormous efforts to find fuel. You know of the billions of

meters that we have drilled in the search for fuel throughout the years, with the cooperation of the USSR. We have built causeways [pedraplenes]; we have done everything, and we have only been able to increase our oil production by a little over a million tons of oil. We have made a great effort, with Soviet cooperation, to build that nuclear energy plant. It is actually far behind schedule, because of factors beyond our control.

This is the kind of difficulty that the country and the revolution are facing today. I wish to say that the current limitations can become greater. I am speaking to you with great clarity. I ask you today, on this 28 October [as heard], on this 30th anniversary: What are we going to do? Give up? [People say "no"] Never. What are we going to do? [People stand and shout slogans] What are we going to do? Are we going to renounce the revolution? [People shout: "No"] Renounce socialism? [People shout: "No"] Renounce independence? [People shout: "No"] Never. What we have to do is resist and fight. [applause] We must resist, fight, and win, of course.

Well, are we worse off than our ancestors were in the 10-year war? [People shout: "No"] Absolutely not. Are we going to be in a worse situation than we would be in the event of a total military blockade of the country? [People shout: "No"]

In fact, in our defense plans in the last few years we have worked out all the ideas of what we should do in the event of a total air and naval blockade against our country, what we should do. Well, circumstances resembling a total blockade of the country could come up for some time. But it would never be exactly the same. Our ships would travel, taking away our products and bringing what we may have been able to purchase. We could trade with many countries, and the conditions would not be similar to a total blockade. We have said, we have asserted, and we believe that we are ready to endure a total blockade of the country and ensure the life of the country even under those conditions, and ensure the defense of the country under those conditions.

So the elements, adverse circumstances, the combination of all the factors I explained before, could lead us to very difficult and very harsh trials. And this is the hope of the imperialists. Today their greatest hope is that our situation will become so difficult because of the situation in East Europe and the USSR that we will not be able to endure. That is their hope, the hope of the counterrevolutionary community there in Miami, those rats who have their suitcases packed and all that kind of thing, and there are surveys and studies on what to do and what they will do, already thinking about the postrevolutionary period.

Undoubtedly their basic ambition would be to turn this country into a Miami, and into a total gambling den, something less than Puerto Rico even. Those are their dreams, those are their dreams. [repeats] Of course, they have not taken us into account. They are not taking us into account. And they dream, but their dreams are associated with these problems, these situations.

It has been very useful to have these programs and plans for the special period, because the special period was thought up in case of a war, in case of a total blockade of the country in which nothing could get in or out. The special period we are talking about now has emerged as a concept in facing these problems I have mentioned, the problems that have occurred in East Europe, the USSR. The concept of the special period in peacetime has emerged. And we are undoubtedly already entering this special period in peacetime. And it is inevitable that we will fall into this special period in all its harshness in peacetime. We will have to undergo this trial.

We have already had to take the initial measures in electricity consumption. We have already taken other measures. We had been taking them for months in the hope that the shortfalls could be resolved. But we had already been reducing fuel consumption until we reached a point at which it was impossible not to take more radical measures, such as the ones that have been taken in industry, transportation, those that have been taken with electricity, etc.

Now new measures have been taken concerning the distribution of products, and it is inevitable that situations will arise that are impossible to predict at this time, impossible to predict. [repeats] What will the situation be in 1991? What is to come? What raw materials will we have? How much fuel? Under what conditions? We cannot give figures. We must be prepared to work with less and less and less and less and almost with nothing. Well, that would be an extreme situation, that would be an extreme situation [repeats] but we must think about these alternatives, which could be the most critical thing. So there would be various measures we would have to take under these conditions.

What are we trying to do and what are we doing, given this situation? We propose that if we have to face a special period in peacetime, a harsh special period, our task should not be only to survive, but even to develop.

First there would be a period of adapting to this situation, continuing the basic programs for developing the country, the essential things, such as the food program. In the first place, what we call the food program, words we used technically that have been popularized and now everyone says them, many use without even knowing what the food program is. There are some who think it is about planting yams and harvesting them within three or four or five months. There are different kinds of yams. There are some that can be harvested after four months, others after six months. There are yams that are harvested after eight months. There is yucca that is also harvested after six months, or eight, or nine, without it becoming tough, etc. There are different varieties, which helps agriculture.

The food program includes a range of things. In the first place, the program involves working on 800,000 hectares

of sugarcane with the plot drainage and irrigation system, which almost doubles the yield of cane per hectare. Right now we already have 160 brigades working on this. These 160 brigades can do 80,000 hectares in one year. By the end of the year we intend to reach 200 brigades. This would mean a capacity for 100,000 hectares per year. It is possible that we will increase it to 220 or 230, but more or less that would take a number of years. Those 800,000 hectares cannot be done in six months. We must think deeply about this.

And of course today, sugarcane is not only used to produce sugar, but it is also a very important raw material for the production of meat and milk, because through the results of our research centers, we can produce a high-calorie, high-protein food from cane that is equivalent to animal feed that contains soy, corn, or wheat. Cattle and sheep can eat as much as they want. Chickens, unfortunately, cannot eat much more than 10 or 12 percent [of their diet]. Pigs can eat up to 20 or 25 percent. It varies depending on the type of animal. Cattle are a type of animal that has characteristics ...[rephrases] a special digestive tract that allows them to assimilate this fibrous food. But from cane comes molasses and proteinaceous molasses, and proteinaceous molasses is one of the major food products for pork production. Molasses can also be used for cattle.

So I am talking about sugarcane as having uses other than sugar production. Unquestionably, we will be able to produce much more sugar, and we will produce as much more sugar as there is a market for. But in this sugar plan we have taken into account the production of food intended for the populace's consumption, through animals. This is one of the important aspects of the program, the sugarcane program, and it is an important part of the food program.

This is what we have been working on. Two years ago, there were not even 10 of these brigades. By the end of the year there will be 200. Many with equipment....[rephrases] Many of them, part of each brigade, will have equipment made in Cuba. This has been an enormous leap forward. The equipment is relatively new, but we are applying it in an accelerated way.

Part of the food program is the engineering system for rice. We have given priority to sugarcane because it is the most important economically, but we are already working with some intensity on the engineering system for rice. We have 10 brigades—these are larger brigades—and we have to reach 40. By the end of the year we will have 15. We intend to exceed 27 next year, and the year after that to reach 40. Each of these brigades has 22 harrows that we have made in this country, and we pull them with Soviet equipment, a T150K or a K700, or a K701, or a T170.

I could talk about how every day we are dealing with these problems. We intend to apply the engineering system to the 160,000 hectares or maybe a little bit more that are available for rice cultivation, and this cannot be done in six months.

The endeavor to build dams, canals, and irrigation systems is a part of the food plan. We are simultaneously working on 30 dams. At the same time we are working on the master channels [canales magistrales] that carry water, and we are also working on the irrigation systems, everything simultaneously. This is a tremendous effort to provide more water for sugar cane, and more water for rice. We are thinking of planting sugar cane on over 70,000 caballerias of irrigated land to ensure our production of sugar cane and sugar. But, we need all these systems. We are making a tremendous effort. In three years, investment in hydraulic projects has quintupled. That is a part [chuckles] of the food program. The construction of complete pork centers is a part of the food program. We are building 50 of them. Part of that construction consists of new centers and another part consists of pens [naves] that are built in the current centers. We are building 27 of them, and 23 pens are currently being built in the existing centers to double pork production. The pork is basically produced from liquid feed [pienso], which consists of food refuse from schools, restaurants, and places like that, as well as protein-rich molasses.

That program will end next year, in 1991. During the second half of 1991, the equivalent of 50 complete centers will be in production, doubling pork production. A part of the pork plan consists of building 1,800 poultry pens to increase egg production to 700 million above the levels we had until 1989—that program is also underway—and another part is to increase poultry production.

Introducing the microjet system and drip irrigation [riego por goteo] on citrus fruit plantations is a part of the food program. We are already doing that, beginning with the Havana orchard in Ceiba. This year, we are introducing the microjet system on 100 caballerias, which triples production. And so, we are....[changes thought] We are planning to do that on all of the country's citrus fruit plantations. We must establish this very revolutionary technique. And not just that, we must make...some (?overhauls), new plantations in some areas with greater density and with better and more productive systems. I mean, we should implement in this field the most modern techniques, those I have mentioned. We are adopting every measure to produce our required means.

[Words indistinct] factories to manufacture hoses, because each caballeria requires kilometers and kilometers of hoses. Of course this is very productive and increases productivity. We have a factory that is being expanded. Instructions have been given to build a second factory to bring this system to a thousand caballerias per year. This is a truly extraordinary figure. Introducing the microjet system on [fruta] plantain and [burro] plantain plantations is a part of the food program. The productivity of one hectare is quadrupled over normal irrigation and cultivation systems. That is a proven fact.

I have asked that a documentary be made on a plantation in Ciego de Avila, so you can see that this is an industry. It produces a great deal [es un rio lo que produce], since the food program is really the application of technology and science to the field of agriculture to increase productivity per man and per hectare. The production of vegetables is a part of the food program. The irrigated area for the production of vegetables has already been doubled, it is being doubled. We are adding 65,000 more hectares, on some of which will be planted plantains and other crops using the microjet system. That is to say, building 1,000 dairy farms, at the rate of over 200 dairy farms per year, is part of the food plan.

Let met tell you that before the rectification process began, just seven or eight dairy farms were being built. We have already opened eight fronts—Pinar del Rio, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, Las Tunas, Granma, and Santiago de Cuba. These eight fronts have new equipment and staffing that has been organized like a contingent to build all the installations through enormous effort.

However, 1,000 dairy farms cannot be built in six months. You can rest assured that we are conducting a massive effort to carry out these works. Just to give you an example, we began several investment projects in conjunction with the GDR, which was very interested in producing butter. The GDR had a surplus of skim milk, which they used in their pork industry. We proposed that the GDR develop an investment project with convertible foreign currency to dehydrate their surplus skim milk, which they would trade for liquid yeast, because they could use liquid yeast for agricultural purposes. By virtue of this agreement, we would have received 20,000 tons of powdered milk from the GDR by the year 1995.

Well, since we now have a new situation, we do not know what will happen to the aforementioned agreement. It takes 20,000 tons of milk powder to produce 200 million liters of milk. This is what the Camaguey Plan, with 300 dairy farms, will produce once it is completed, once it is completed [repeats]. Therefore, one single transaction in which we had secured 20,000 tons of milk powder represented the total production of the Camaguey Plan.

Now, the Camaguey Plan will possibly produce, once the 300 dairy farms and 500 installations for calves and heifers are finished, that 200 million liters of milk. This is part of the food program.

The seafood production [produccion acuicola], which we are swiftly developing....[changes thought] We are building approximately 200 hectares of freshwater fish hatcheries to raise fingerlings and to increase freshwater fish production by thousands of tons at our facilities.

This year our production will total 20,000 tons of fish. We are working to double this figure within two years. We held a long meeting on 26 September with the technicians, scientists, directors of fingerling production centers and fish hatchery workers to accelerate this program through the use of fertilizer in the fish hatcheries and other experimental efforts. These projects will enable us to produce up to nearly two tons of fish per hectare. We have a capacity of over 100,000 hectares in our fish hatcheries. [words indistinct] important in what we are working on.

The research centers are also working intensely to contribute everything they can to fish production techniques. We are developing a taro, plantain, and potato seed production system in the laboratory to accelerate our production programs so that we will not be dependent on natural seed production. We are developing the construction of [words indistinct] laboratory to use biological methods to control blights. This is part of the food program.

The food program is ambitious and extensive. However, it should not be viewed simplistically. We cannot believe that we will plant some seeds today and in three months all our food problems will be solved. We have to know our realities and that things are not that simple or easy. Currently, we are implementing a program that we could call special in the city of Havana and in Havana Province. We are working to produce fruit, vegetables, and edible roots. The program has been discussed with enterprises, cooperatives, ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] personnel, and peasants. We always have to [word indistinct] self-sufficiency in fruit, vegetables, and edible roots in Havana. This includes planting 600 caballerias with plantains. These caballerias have irrigation systems; 500 of them have microjet systems. That is the latest and most revolutionary innovation in plantain production. We have planted 600 caballerias. There are a total of approximately 2,900 caballerias. Part of these caballerias will be used for permanent crops such as plantains, which cannot be rotated. Also, 2,200 caballerias will have malanga [edible root] which are to be rotated every year. The Executive Committee is working directly on this program. It is working in agriculture with the Havana Province peasants and in the city of Havana itself. Havana is contributing heavily toward this program, as it must.

The Havana minibrigades are currently building 30 agricultural campsites and 50 more camps are to be constructed. As soon as we finish the first 30 camps, we will start to build the remaining 20 for 300 workers. Later we will probably have to build 10 more camps for the cooperatives that have labor force difficulties. These cooperatives will have a capacity for 20,000 workers from Havana at peak periods—20,000 workers.

What is agriculture's misfortune in Havana? The lack of a labor force. Consequently, weeds take over the fields. This situation has been saved by rural schools that contribute their invaluable services and vacation time to agricultural labor. However, multiple crop enterprises have been slowly left without their own employees. This is a reality. A total of 1,700 caballerias have 1,900 specifically designated employees. But, the situation is not the same everywhere. In (Guira de Medino), a multiple crop enterprise that has

excellent land and is fully equipped with an irrigation system, there are 128 designated employees. Of course, the machinery and workshop sections have many people. There are many people in the service sections, too. We cannot ignore that services are needed. When you have a camp, you have to cook there and maintenance has to be done on the site. People in the service sections are needed. In the [word indistinct] sphere [words indistinct]. There are also many people in the leadership and administrative category.

Certainly, this [word indistinct] we have been asking the city to cooperate and produce the food required by the city. However, we are also telling enterprises that all of our vices have to be swept aside [word indistinct]. We are telling them that we have to sweep them away. [applause] We must establish discipline. [applause] We must establish discipline. [repeats] The machinery worker cannot only work on machines. He has to plow. We have to cut by 80 percent the number of people who are in the offices of the agriculture enterprises—80 percent. [applause] Yes. If they want the job [word indistinct] and those who have reports [words indistinct]. However, we will see to it that [words indistinct] of 100 are left with less than 20 workers. Not only in this enterprise, but throughout the country—less than 20. [applause] Do you know how many people have wound up in offices? Do you know [words indistinct] and they ask for this again? We have discussed this with cooperatives. They have a good level of management. However, there are three or four cooperatives with 60, 70 caballerias. We are going to place these enterprises at the same level as cooperatives. We will place them at the same level as cooperatives. [repeats] [applause]

However, this still does not solve the problem. Mobilization is not the final solution to the problem. We will need years for this.

But there is a specific reality. Agricultural workers are being treated as least important in our society, as the last wheel of the car. How does that saying go? Oh yes, they are being treated like the car's fifth wheel.

We have done all kinds of things. When we started the rectification process, one of the first things we did was eliminate the 80-peso minimum wage. We did all kinds of things. We carried out wage reform, but the agricultural worker was forgotten. That is the truth. We helped cooperatives. We have provided them with equipment. We gave them construction materials and they built houses. The standard of living of cooperative members has improved significantly. We met with the best cooperative directors. We talked about and discussed all these issues in depth. We told them that we owe the agricultural workers the same standard of living that members of cooperatives enjoy.

Many people made a lot of money on the peasant free market. People acquired material without control [por la libre]. They came to Havana all the way from Pinar del Rio and Santa Clara Provinces to buy material without control and they built themselves very nice houses. Many people did that. Agricultural workers, however, did not have that opportunity.

Unfortunately, at a given time, agricultural enterprises stopped building houses. When the rectification process began, we tried to start the home building policy in those enterprises again, but we had to start by creating cement block factories and by repairing the existing cement factory. We had to do many things.

We cannot have agricultural workers if they are not paid adequately for their work and if we fail to pay due attention to order, [Castro corrects himself] I mean, to man. [applause] What happens when agricultural workers lack homes and day-care centers and are treated as outcasts? The state has a more or less fixed wage system. When there is a lot of work to do, private enterprises pay up to 20, 25, or 30 [currency not specified] and take labor forces away from state enterprises. Cooperatives also pay more than the state, although not more than private enterprises. Thus, those enterprises' agricultural workers [words indistinct].

Every time we have implemented a policy centered around man's interests—as we did in the case of the sugar cane harvest—we have obtained positive results. State enterprises produce over 80 percent of the total sugar cane production in this country. Productivity per hectare improves and increases with those policies.

We have made a greater effort with sugar cane. This is a mechanized crop. Our 4,000 combines have replaced 300,000 cutters. [Words indistinct] Unfortunately, our varied-crop enterprises and many other agricultural enterprises did not make the investments they needed to make. I believe that many varied-crop enterprises in Havana and in other areas, too [words indistinct] but if we did not build houses in those enterprises during those critical years, we must build houses there now. The 10,000 houses built in that enterprise that has just [word indistinct] man's stay in that enterprise. If we want to have food to eat, agricultural workers' wages should be even higher than those paid in the cities. [applause]

That is a fact in other countries. That is a need in any country and in any social system. Japan is one of the world's most developed countries. As far as the rice issue is concerned, the Japanese plant it by hand or with very small machines, because they do not sow large fields. The production per hectare is high, though the production per man is very low compared to any mechanized rice plantation.

When the international price of rice is $250 or $300.... [changes thought] In Japan, the government pays $800 or $850 per ton of rice to the farmer, otherwise they would be without rice, otherwise they would be without rice [repeats]. Of course, that is the complaint of many rice-exporting countries. That subsidy competes and takes the markets away from many Third World countries. But they produce rice. How much do the Japanese spend on foodstuff subsidies? $24 billion. How much does the EEC spend? $25 billion. And so those strange

neoliberal theories that some have invented that agriculture cannot be subsidized.... [changes thought] The more industrialized nations subsidize it, otherwise they would not have agriculture.

Yes, this is also a selfish measure. They forget about countries that produce many things and so they take away the meat market from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, and create all sorts of problems for other countries. Regardless of the social system, and this is much more so in the socialist system that seeks equity and justice, the work is very hard. One has to see what agricultural work is like in June, July, and August. In Europe, gentlemen, they work with air conditioning in the fields. With the temperature in Europe and the United States, in those countries that have a dry climate and 15, 16, or 17 degree [centigrade] temperature, there is air conditioning. Here, men must work under a sun that breaks stones, a relative humidity of over 80 percent, and heat in the shade of over 30 degrees.

This is hard work, and we must do it. Otherwise, people will instinctively and naturally seek the shade or an office. [applause] Now that everyone, now that everyone [repeats] has studied and can study, since the universities have 200,000 students in their regular courses and in their refresher [por reencuentro] and directed [dirigido] courses, and in all sorts of courses.... [changes thought] A person may be trained, and I will not mention any profession lest someone should take offense [laughter].... [changes thought] I can say a historian, that is a good profession and very interesting, is taught through a directed course. However, we cannot produce through a directed course a single plantain or harvest a pound of sweet potatoes. [applause]

The university has 300,000 [figure as heard] students, taking all sorts of courses. The [name indistinct] farming enterprise, which has 4,000 hectares, has 128 farm workers. Everyone has become a university student, professor, teacher, Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] or Minint [Ministry of Interior] official, mid-level technician, engineer, CDR [word indistinct] [applause], and yet the farming enterprises, the various crop enterprises, are there, where one has to [word indistinct]. It is not the same thing on dairy farms. One has to work early in the morning and in the shade on the dairy farms. However, where there are crops, one cannot [word indistinct], because we still do not have machines that pick up and clean the sweet potatoes, cassavas, and all the other crops.

That work has to be done by hand. There is no one there, and that is the reality. One has to change that reality. That is why I say that (?the question is not just to leave the) office. [applause] Offices must have among their cadres those who know, experts. But an expert [words indistinct] and also in the plantain field [words indistinct]. I think of an expert as an intellectual of production, directing the field there, being a sergeant of production. However, if everyone is taken to the field, that will not solve anything.

Some crops require 10 workers per caballeria, sometimes more, sometimes less. In the case of plantains, where the microjet system is used, then you need five workers. How productive they are! The irrigation system is like a faucet that is opened. Once the investment is made, it is only a matter of opening the faucet. That phase involves high technology and it increases productivity enormously. In addition, we are dealing with a year-round crop—from January until December. It is year-round production. It is not like potatoes, which we can only produce between March and April. Potatoes are a seasonal crop. We have to store potatoes in cold-storage rooms.

In any case, we need eight to 10 workers per caballeria for this type of crop. We are taking all this into account in the program we are developing in Havana.

In May and June, but especially in June when Cuban students finish their final exams and go on vacation, our agricultural workers also request leave to coincide with the [word indistinct]. You can therefore imagine what happens to our 300 sweet potato caballerias in June, July, and August. Each sweet potato caballeria requires the planting of 600,000 stems to produce 5,000, 6,000, 7,000 or more quintals of sweet potatoes. The same thing goes for the yucca crop, except that if we wait until June to plant the yucca—after having planted potatoes, tomatoes, and other vegetables—there are no students to help with the crops. There is no one to do the work at the caballerias. Students go on vacation in June.

Perhaps some of the machinery is not used enough during that time of the year. I have told our comrades that everything should be planted by June. The only thing that grows at that time is grass. The only thing that is fertilized at that time of the year is grass. And we [word indistinct] grasslands in some of those enterprises. When people are called in [words indistinct] they [word indistinct] the grass this tall. We should not let grass grow, because in places where one man is enough [words indistinct], then we need five men to do the same job and nothing is produced.

A cucumber caballeria should usually produce 3,000 quintals of cucumbers, but when the grass starts growing in June and July.... [changes thought] This happened this year.

We talked about this when we discussed the call for the party congress with the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] members. At that meeting, we realized that there were orders to plant important [word indistinct], taking into account that the weather had been bad for the potato and tomato crops. But what happened? It was only at that meeting that we realized what was happening. Our comrades were looking for a labor force and mobilizing members of the Youth Labor Army. But [words indistinct] is that [words indistinct]. When they called for a mobilization, the grass was up to here. It was very tall. That cannot happen to us again.

Now that we have discussed this problem, we realize that this year has facilitated our work regarding problems we had with our winter crops. We made big efforts in the

spring. This is what all these things prove and teach us. We should have 20,000 workers in June.

We are trying to provide our agricultural camps with all the necessary facilities. We need cubicles instead of large rooms. We are going to install a number of fans. We will not install air conditioning, but we will have fans. The electricity consumed by one air conditioning unit can be used to operate 12 fans. We already have the fans. We have everything. We will try to keep some camps cool for as long as we can, because some of them have no cooling systems at all. [applause] We will also put screens on the windows, because one of the enemies is mosquitoes. We will improve the entire general situation of the agricultural camps.

The food given to the mobilized agricultural workers must be more or less similar to that of the contingents, because these mobilized workers must be as well fed as circumstances permit. [applause] The camps will now have stoves; wood-burning stoves, and regular stoves. We have made estimates of the expenses of the 50 camps working at full capacity for one year. If there is suddenly no more oil and we do not have enough to make those stoves work, we will then use the wood-burning stoves. With the wood-burning stoves we will be able to solve the problem. We should adopt as many preventive measures as possible. We must be prepared for any situation. If we need to make more sacrifices, we will be ready to make them.

The same is going to be done with our machinery. Our plan includes the domestication of 3,000 teams of oxen. In the varied-crop enterprises, many of these teams are in the [word indistinct], although some of them have not been killed. [Crowd laughs] Some of them have been pardoned. We have told some of them: Gentlemen, you are not going to be part of our diet. You are now going to work. You are now going to contribute to a special period in time of peace. Of course. [applause]

To avoid unnecessary sacrifices as long as we can, there is a national program to domesticate 100,000 bulls in six months. We also have 300 buffalo, which are very good too, and their herds are increasing. We are now purchasing fowl meat as well. As long as we can do this, we will continue to domesticate these animals.

We will possibly domesticate another 100,000 bulls so that our agricultural sector will have approximately 400,000 domesticated bulls. Currently, we have 212,000 domesticated bulls. We are going to double this figure and we are going to plow the land and plant everything necessary with oxen and not use fuel. [applause].

We will try to maintain the sugarcane combines because they can do the work of 300,000 workers. Even if we had the strength, we must consider the expenses incurred in mobilizing 300,000 workers; buying axes, machetes, tools, and providing shelter, transportation, food, clothing, and footwear.

Even if we had to stop everything else, we would still keep the 4,000 combines working. We will harvest the sugarcane with combines. [applause] The food program is being carried out rigorously, and it is a number one task whose development should not be stopped.

The second program is that of biotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, and research centers, because they represent a world of difference for this country. Even if we only had cement, wheelbarrows, and money for this plan after the food program, we must go on. Well, we are using up nearly four million tons of cement. Let us suppose that the special period cuts down this quantity to one and one half million tons or a third of the cement, the dams, canals, food programs, and dairy installations will have all of the cement that they require. This biotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, and research plan will have all of the cement that it requires. This could yield thousands of millions of [new products] for the country. I am not speaking of a few millions. We are paying great attention to this field. Our scientists work 14 or 15 hours daily seeking new products in this field, which is a good thing for the country. Yes, the imperialists know it, but it does not matter. I can say, however, that we can manufacture in our research centers any medicine that they can manufacture. [applause] We are even manufacturing some products that they are not. And some of them will be more costly than oil. We have manufactured products in our research center that have proven to be so good that we are already using them. There is an increasing demand for them. In addition, people come here from Vitiligo to be treated because they have not been cured anywhere else or have been treated before with medicine that we manufacture. There are people who come to us for treatment of pigmentary retinitis, which is not cured anywhere else in the world. We are progressing in many fields, particularly in the production of vaccines and medicines of all kinds. There will not be one medicine left that we cannot manufacture. This is another field that will not be affected by the special period. If we have one cent, this is where we will use it.

And we still have the third branch, tourism, which could mean considerable revenue for the country. In Cuba, the pure air and sea, and a sun that cracks the rocks, a sun that the Northern Europeans would like to enjoy in winter, is not suitable to plant sweet potatoes. This climate, however, is excellent for recreation. So we have this developed world that lives in despair because pollution is everywhere. The waste products of 140,000 industries are spilled into the Mediterranean, as a result the fish cannot live there and the oxygen level has diminished.

We have clean seas, surrounded by the Gulf current, excellent natural resources. We do not have oil, but we do have some places that are beautiful. Since we have to live, and need money, and we need resources, and since we must save the revolution, we must make all the necessary investments in this area. [applause] These are priority programs. These are priority programs. [repeats] Any economic program, anything that gives us something, that saves us an import product, that solves an

important problem, or that generates an export product.... [changes thought] Logically, if we build much less, and use less cement, we may have cement to export, if we have fuel. We may have left over cement to use in Villa or we may have other materials left, and we can increase our exports with them.

Well, there are things like, for example, the manufacture of bicycles, which has become a top priority. [laughter] It is a top priority. We have purchased 200,000, and we are awaiting to purchase an additional 500,000, and we have given instructions to quickly purchase the equipment for five bicycle factories—five factories. [applause] JUVENTUD REBELDE reported that 500,000 bicycles were going to be built in 1991. That is not right. In 1991, and if we manage to purchase 500,000 bicycles, we may have more than that. The ones we are purchasing have to be assembled.

I said we have 200,000 and are trying to obtain an additional 500,000. Even though we are purchasing the equipment, no one can say that the first bicycles built here will be circulating in the first quarter of the year. No. There is a bus factory called Giron Seis which has turned out to be bankruptcy on wheels because of the amount of gasoline it spends. For the moment, we will not build any more Giron Seis factories. If there is an engine, we will put it in stock, for those that unfortunately must be on the road. But the Giron Seis factory will now become a bicycle factory. [laughter]

If we go back to manufacturing buses there, it will have to be a bus with an engine that yields 20 kilometers per gallon instead of seven. That is a big loss. It is a fuel pipe that leaks gasoline along the way. No one know what needs to be done to an engine that uses a gallon every seven kilometers, transporting just a few people. We have some of these old buses that stopping them means getting richer.

Well, what do we want to do with these bicycles. We want to hand them out. We are carrying out some programs within a limit of eight to 10 kilometers, that will not take more than 30 minutes, 20 minutes, 15 minutes, or 10 minutes. Then, we are really going to have ltd [expansion unknown] in industrial quantities. [laughter] If our people do what some other countries have done....[changes thought] Look at what China is doing today. And what Vietnam is doing. Many countries live with fewer buses than we have; they move about on bicycles. This is the era of the bicycle. We will not be the only ones. What is happening is terrible. What will befall the Third World is much worse than all that.

Let us manufacture them. This is an investment we must make immediately, like the investment for parts for the microjet systems for citrus fruit and other crops, like the production of engines for irrigation systems, and like the production of (?Fregat) machinery. For all of that we must have whatever resources we may have available. The people will get a little of everything. Of the food plan, the people will get the biggest share whether we are in the special period or not. To be truthful, comrades, we have been implementing a food plan without the special period. We have been working very hard since the rectification process began. Hundreds and hundreds of forces have been organized for this food plan.

The people are the only ones to gain from the programs of the medicine industry. Whenever there is a new vaccine, every child gets vaccinated. Already, virtually every child in this country has been vaccinated against that plight and the people's terror known as meningococcus. Now, we have a vaccine against hepatitis. It is an expensive vaccine, but we are going to mass produce it for ourselves and for export. There are excellent products that seem to be very good for fighting hypertension or high cholesterol levels, something that afflicts a large number of people.

In addition, we have other promising products that have beneficial properties and represent hope, especially for seniors. [laughter] This world is filled with all types of people, young and old. Well, gentlemen, that was to tell you that we are making progress with some products and those products benefit the people.

The tourism program is a source of jobs in the country. This is especially true in regions that are untouched. We are going to develop them. This activity is going to be a source of jobs for thousands of people. These jobs will pay well and they will not be as hard as growing sweet potatoes. We have many people in other parts of the country, not so much in Havana, who want this type of work.

However, some tourist installations will not be occupied all year long. During part of the year, some of these installations could be used for rest and recreation of our people. [applause] During special periods these things will be a priority.

There is something I forgot and should have mentioned when I talked about the multiple enterprises. It is a new idea, and it is a very important one. The idea came from the Blas Roca contingent. They asked us to give them an area where they could organize a brigade. We gave them 65 caballerias of plantain with irrigation systems; 15 caballerias are already planted and the remaining 50 will have an aerial irrigation system. This system is 50 percent more productive than the surface irrigation system. It is an aerial irrigation system because it is like a shower that falls from the top of the trees. This contigent is going to have 65 caballerias and already the Havana Micons [Ministry of Construction] comrades, the contigents, have asked that they be given another area. So, possibly the 500 caballerias of plantains with irrigation systems in the Havana Province will be worked by contigents. Workers that are more productive would reduce the amount of mobilization that would be needed.

This arrangement would work throughout the whole year. This type of farming is very technical. The workers will be in the shade primarily because of the cover. No grass grows there. It is possible that of the 500 caballerias with irrigation systems, 400 of them are of plantains. Of

these, 100 are worked by a permanent force of contingents. Something new has arisen [words indistinct].

We are regrouping our forces throughout the country. We are leaving to the Blas Roca Brigades indispensable projects like the Coiba Hotel, the Bejucal center for bioproducts, the cold storage warehouses being built in Havana, the freeway to Pinar del Rio, which is very necessary in normal times, and the freeway to Artemisa.

The road between San Cristobal and Pinar del Rio will be built becasue it is needed. The road is very bad. We will build the road for [word indistinct] traffic, but not a freeway. Several Blas Roca brigades have gone to Pinar del Rio to build dams and ponds for fish breeding and other activities. We are making total changes. In the La Juventud dam area, they are going to build 20 ponds. In Mapopo, here in the province of Havana, they are going to build 10 ponds. We are relocating projects that were useful under normal conditions, but now, in this special period, are less important. We are strengthening the hydraulic and fish breeding sectors.

We are transferring construction workers to agricultural sectors. We are going to start this experiment with the permanent brigades here in Havana.

There are a number of measures that we are undertaking. We have already issued orders not to start a single new social project. We wanted to build new schools to replace the old ones in Havana. We had already carried out a project for special schools and health centers. We have not yet built all of them. We caried out a program of social schools and day-care centers. We have built almost 120 centers. Now we have stopped those projects. We like these projects very much. They are very humane. However, they are not a basic need at this moment. We have even decided not to start any new housing projects in Havana. We have established a policy to go ahead and complete everything that is already being built. This means that if a day-care center or a school is being built anywhere, it will be completed.

We have no alternative but to dedicate a number of years to our social problems. I can assure you, companeros, that we will not build any new hospitals. We will complete the ones we are building. In five years we have become one of the most highly-regarded countries in the world in the medical field. We will continue to graduate doctors. Naturally, the universities will not be closed. We cannot conceive of that. We will continue to gain more experience.

We will not start any new social programs. If we have to build houses, we will build them wherever there is an industry, for the workers. We have to build houses in the countryside to solve our basic problems. We are sorry about the rest, because for three years we have been investing in factories to build cement blocks, bricks, tubing, and everything else in the cement industry. It hurts us very much to have to discontinue these programs, especially after we had such great expectations about them. However, we must be determined about our plans. We cannot be sentimental or emotional about this. The basic issue is to safeguard the country and the revolution.

We could not continue with these programs during a special period. However, we are going to start new projects, and we are going to finish as many of the ones we started as possible, because they are needed.

About 30,000 houses are being built in the city [words indistinct]. These are measures that we have to adopt and we must be prepared to adopt them.

We are also thinking of the transportation problem. It will not be possible to continue with 28,000 bus trips in the capital as before. We will keep as many buses as we can for as long as possible. We might not be able to maintain more than 20,000, and who knows how much fuel will cost next year. We are not thinking of reducing working hours, but rather working days. If we reduce one or two hours, we are not accomplishing anything.

What will the situation be for the raw materials industry? It is not possible today, but if we have to close many industries, we will close them. If we have to do what we said at the meeting of the Women's Federation, that is, wear the same clothes several years, we would go to [applause] ...we would go to our closets and trunks. We will have to do this for the children that are born and whho start growing. However, if we were to lack raw materials for the textile industry, we would have to reduce textitle production to the absolute minimum.

Even if this were to happen, our women will be well dressed. At the Women's Federation meeting, I said that everyday they wore a different dress. And here also. I am sure that if we were to meet tomorrow, you there would not be wearing that red dress, nor you that green one, nor you the white one. Each one of you would be wearing a different dress. Many of you have been saving your dresses, like many families who keep their cribs, and save the older children's clothes for the younger ones. Everyone knows that. Such is life.

We must be prepared for [words indistinct]. However, companeras and companeros, there is something I want you to keep in mind. Only a socialist system can face this. In a capitalist system having these kinds problems, they would double or triple the prices and that would be it. The poorer people with less income would have no electricity and that is it. Only a socialist system faces the problems in the way we are doing. A capitalist system would even go as far as to ration electricity and to solve the problem with price increases. What if we were to raise the price to 20 or 25 cents a kilowatt? You can be sure that we would save many more kilowatts. However, who would be penalized, who would be affected? Who would be harmed? The workers, the poorer people would be harmed. Those poor sectors would be affected the most. [applause]

What would a capitalist system do in the case of an energy crisis? It could do nothing. It would have no way

out. Prices would increase and some people would resort to stealing electricity from their neighbors. In a capitalist system, generally speaking, no one is allowed to do this, but the prices would increase anyway. They raise the price to 50 and reduce the number of trips from 26,000 to 8,000 [sentence as heard]. Two thirds of the 15,000 Havana city bus employees would be fired. Two thirds is a lot and we would have a conflict.

It seems that it is more pleasant to go around in a T-bone [not further indentified] than to work in the south [sentence as heard].

However, what do the capitalists do? What are many Latin American countries doing every day? They had never had a crisis like the one that is coming because of fuel. They fire millions of people. They multiply costs. They crush the people, and they are only a privileged or super-privileged minority.

We have seen in Latin America over the last few years the famous shock measures which the World Bank and the IMF are recommending to the formerly socialist Eastern Bloc countries, those that decided to build capitalism. The World Bank and the IMF are advising them to throw millions into the streets and to increase prices. That is how capitalists solve the problem.

However, the revolution will face this time without sending anyone into the street, without depriving a single citizen of his resources, and without leaving anyone unemployed. Money may be plentiful, I will not deny it, however, one of the problems we will face is that we do not expect to have new electric home appliances because, logically, many consumer goods will decrease. This is regrettable, but it is better than not having food or medicine.

Let us hope, and we will be happy, if the country has electricity throughout. Right now we cannot do it. We hope each family gets a television set, in color. We were already doing it. And that each family may have a refrigerator, a fan, or anything. Can we really assure that we will have those appliances with the future appearing the way it does? No, we cannot.

Not a single citizen will be deserted, and that is a characteristic of our socialism. Not a single citizen will be abandoned. We challenge capitalism to solve the problem in this manner, and to face difficulties such as this one in this manner.

If we must reduce the work week, we will reduce it. If we cannot work five days, we will work four. And if we cannot work four, we will work three and give time off. We do not know what free time is if it is well used. I talked to the companions of JUVENTUD REBELDE. They plan to study languages and computers in their free time, now that they will have free time each week.

Everybody must make their plans. A young man may ride a bicycle with his girlfriend. It does not have to be on an Icaru [not further identified]. An Icaru is bad for the wheels, just like the Jiron 6 [not further identified]. A young man can ride a bicycle.

We will give time off, and maybe we will tell the British that we have a 30-hour work week and they still have to work so many hours. We will tell Europe that we are ahead of them.

Of course, when the situation returns to normal, we must go back to work and longer work weeks.

During the special period, the contingents will continue to work in the areas of biotechnology, on important economic objectives, or in a hotel for tourism. They will work day and night, all the time.

It is possible that the situation with the fuel and raw materials will force us to reduce the work week. Many similar measures are already being taken. Some people work an extra hour so that they do not have to work on Saturday. Some other people are working double shifts every other day.

We are searching for many formulas, but we do not want to sacrifice the citizen. At the most, the worker will earn free time, but he will not be on the streets without a job. This is the real humane way.

Imperialists talk so much about human rights, but their formulas are cruel, and always at the worker's or the people's expense. Humane treatment may be the great virtue of our system when it faces problems such as this one. If we had a capitalist system in our country, this would be absolutely impossible. The situation would explode. There would be 10 revolutions. Some countries are facing a similar situation now.

In this case, two things are working in our favor.

We have experienced oil crises in the past, but we did not have a crisis in the socialist world. Now, we are facing two crises at the same time; the crisis in the socialist world and the oil crisis, which has resulted from the Persian Gulf conflict. Both are very serious problems. Our other problems have combined with this new problem, but the situation is disastrous for other countries. With oil prices at $40 per barrel, no one knows what is going to happen to over 100 countries in the world. No one knows what will happen in those countries. But this is not all.

If a war breaks out in the Gulf, oil prices will inevitably go up to $50, $60, or $70 per barrel, and that would be a world catastrophe. It would be a world catastrophe that would not only affect Third World countries, but it would destroy the Third World. It would destroy Third World nonoil-producing countries, which most of them basically are. A few oil-producing countries will become rich and we do not even know what they will do with that money. The capitalist, developed countries will manage better, but they will inevitably experience an economic recession and not even the United States, which produces part of the oil and gas it consumes, would escape. Thus, the world is facing an

extremely dangerous situation, and many countries do not even have the resources we do.

We will join together to face that situation. We will bear the burden of this problem together. We will work together to save the country. We will conduct activities that will allow us to find definitive solutions in the future, but we always work as we should work under these circumstances. We have to think that one day we will attain our total economic independence at any price. [applause] Our total economic independence [repeats]. And we will attain it. Life will have us face that challenge. And we will mature. We will be stronger and more prepared. How are we going to attain that goal? Although ours is a small country that does not produce important hydrocarbons, we have this. We have this [repeats]. We have our people's intelligence. [applause] We have our intelligence; the intelligence that has developed the revolution throughout these years. We have developed abilities. We have these two things.

Our moral values and revolutionary principles helped us send over 300,000 internationalist combatants. No other country in the world has done that. Those values must be present now. This country is now required to express its internationalism; it is required to conduct an extraordinary internationalist mission: to save the Cuban Revolution; to save socialism in Cuba. [applause]

That will be, that will be [repeats himself] the greatest internationalist service that our people may ever offer humanity. The revolutionary ideas are not defeated or anything like that. They are going through hard times, but they will return. And the more injustice there is in the world, the faster they will return. The more exploitation there is in the world, the more hunger there is in the world, the more chaos there is in the world, the faster the revolutionary ideas will return.

We, who are the standard bearers of these ideas, must hold them up. History has given us this mission, history. [applause] As I said, we have the intelligence, the moral virtue, courage, and heroism to carry out that mission.

We have worried throughout much of the destiny. You may have heard at the United Nations the gratitude shown for our representation's behavior at the Security Council regarding the Persian Gulf crisis. We acted there with total dignity and with a total spirit of justice. We have made this extraordinary effort for peace, to find a solution to the problem without war, but a fair solution.

We did not hesitate in rejecting and condemning Kuwait's occupation and annexation. We did this based on the norms and principles of international law, which we believe must prevail in our world. We did not hesitate, therefore, in supporting the resolutions that condemned those actions which, according to our judgment, violated international law. But at the same time, we have strongly opposed everything we consider unfair. One of the most unfair things is the attempt to defeat a whole nation through starvation. That is what the blockade amounts to.

At first we struggled to have food and medicine excluded from the blockade because, if having hostages is condemnable or making innocent people hostages, which we oppose and always will oppose, it is even more cruel to try to kill millions of women, senior citizens, and children by starvation to achieve a determined objective.

That blockade does not only affect the military force, but the civilian population too. Among the civilian population, there are millions of women, elderly and children. This is revolting. That is what the United States wants, and has demonstrated at the United Nations, in light of Cuba's efforts for defining the blockade properly and trying to have an exception to food and medicines.

The United States has been devising procedures that make it virtually impossible to ship food and medicine to the Persian Gulf area. You can see that the United States speaks of respect for human rights and certain principles, while it applies incredibly cruel and loathsome formulas. We have flatly objected to this. Also, we vetoed the blockade because we knew what was coming behind it. As soon as the United Nations passed a resolution, the United States unilaterally, and on its own, decided to establish a naval blockade without authorization from the United Nations. Later, however, something truly shameful occurred. In a resolution, the UN Security Council approved the unilateral blockade measure by the United States. We objected. I think the day in which the Security Council approved the unilateral military action of the United States was a day of dishonor for the Security Council. The United States was waving the baton in the Security Council. Now, an approved air blockade, and Cuba voted against it, it was the only country to do so. We have had the honor and the glory of being the only country to do so. [applause]

History will record the honor, dignity, and courage that Cuba acted with at this moment, which is so important for mankind. It was important to assume a firm stance. We did not compromise, but voted no, and we will vote against everything we disagree with, although we are the only one. [applause] Several of the measures approved by the Security Council are conducive to war, and we have fought for peace within the Security Council, and not just there, but everywhere. We have made many silent, quiet efforts to seek a political, rather than a military solution to the conflict. We have taken action; we have made use of our relations with many countries in an effort to achieve this objective.

In our opinion, a political solution necessarily implies an end to the occupation of Kuwait, and the reestablishment of that country's sovereignty. In this there is no confusion of any kind, and we have a policy of principle, a straight, clear policy. We feel there should be guarantees for all the countries in the region, and we believe that if the United States is capable of achieving a political solution [corrects himself]—not the United States, the United Nations—it could also develop formulas to provide guarantees for all countries in the region by the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops to their

border, to their territory, and the withdrawal of the U.S. and NATO troops from the Persian Gulf region.

Not attaining a political solution would represent a defeat for mankind. We have bet on this political solution. We have worked and are still working, although we are aware that there is less and less time. And we have done it, not only with the political vocation of our peoples and our revolution, not only to do our international duty [sentence as heard]. It would be very sad to see a catastrophe befall the world, especially one that is impossible to prevent. In addition, we are not dealing with a nuclear catastrophe, although no one is sure what will happen. If chemical and nuclear weapons are used, no one can be sure of the results. This war would not only cost many lives on the battlefield, but it would be a catastrophe for the international economy, partricularly in developing countries, the non-oil producing Third World countries, which comprise the great majority. While some countries will swim in cash, others will swim in misery, sacrifice, and suffering. This is inevitable.

Apart from all of the risks, such as a chemical war and maybe a tactical nuclear war, the outbreak of an armed conflict in the Persian Gulf could cause an unestimatable amount of destruction, not only of lives, but also of energy resources, which today are the Achilles' heel of the international and Third World economies.

If to these countries' huge debt, amounting to more than a trillion dollars, we add the price of oil at $60 dollars a barrel, you can imagine the catastrophe. This is also why we have multiplied our efforts in favor of peace at the Security Council. It can be said that the United States and the West have been betting for war, a war that would even result in negative consequences for the economies of the developed countries and that of the United States itself. I am sure that if they could think calmly, they would realize that war is the worst solution for settling this conflict, that this conflict can and should be settled politically, that several of the Security Council resolutions, instead of paving the way for a political solution, have made it more difficult. Our country has waged a great struggle also in this context. We have not only thought about ourselves—yes, our own interests are at stake—but about the interests of the world and fundamentally the interests of the Third World countries. We will continue to wage this honorable and some times lonely battle, but we will not hesitate, surrender, or back down.

This, CDR companeros and companeras, is in essence what I wanted to tell you today on this 30th anniversary. My trust of the people is something that marked me since I regarded myself as a revolutionary and since I became a revolutionary. I am sure we have the privilege of relying on one of the most intelligent, courageous, and generous people. This is a people of honor and dignity, regardless of any defects we might have. In these difficult times, there will surely be, as usual, rats that want to abandon the ship. There will be cowards. [applause] We are not imposing our ideas, thus bringing problems to thousands. Let them shift their homeland, if they so desire at this time. It is not us, you know this very well, who are making it difficult to leave, but they, the human rights people who, refuse visas when they are requested. But if the requestor breaks into the embassy with a sharp machete threatening to cut off the ambassador's head, he is given a visa and the plane ticket at once. [applause]

We have seen and witnessed this little game, but stopped it short. I told those involved: There is only one way for people to leave. Whether they want to or not, they will stay in this homeland that they have refused to accept, because they have been unable to appreciate farmers, the people of honor, the proletariat, and the best workers of the country. [applause]

Being farmers is a great honor in these times, although we have to produce sweet potatoes, banana, malanga, and yucca even for [words indistinct], because it is always so. We also have to feed even the scum and the undesirables. But we cannot help it. We will give them their piece of sweet potato, we will not refuse it. They will not be able to enjoy the glory of what we are doing here. Maybe a formula can be devised some day to give more to those who do more and a little less in the rationing card to the lazy. All of these things are possible, but I am not announcing them. They can become very complex. Well, life will tell us what to do. But well, we could give workers three or four days off. They will feel happy and that each is doing his share. What we must create is a climate of condemnation for the scoundrels, the loafers, the idlers, and parasites. This should not be a task of the masses. It is the moral climate that should pressure. Arms will abound for a situation like this. We might lack raw materials and fuel and share this effort among us all. I have already said that some will have to work more than others, and they will, with pride.

But I am referring to those who abandon the ship of the revolution, those who are no longer revolutionaries, those who have been here and there. There are some around, I can see them here. The easily frightened have always existed. [applause] There are those who lose their morality and try to spread their demoralization. We must confront them. In difficult times, the worms will try to raise their heads. We must fight them and tell them: Worms, back to your holes. Worms, go to your holes. [applause] Worms, back to your garbage, dung, [words indistinct], and shut your mouth. [applause] These good virtues of the CDR should never be lost. The morals of worthy men and women, the courageous, the patriots, the revolutionaries, and the communists is what should prevail. [applause]

Now, we are even adopting new forms of popular organizations. As you all know, we are already creating in Havana the 93 people's councils for the 93 zones into which the capital city will be divided. This will be done according to the party and state leadership, which have made the decision to apply this system as an experiment. I believe, however, that it will be a definite reality. It will be an experiment regarding operations, norms, and tasks. On 10 October, however, the capital city will have its 93 people's councils, with their presidents, who will

be the natural leaders. They will be elected from the zone delegates. You could not find a more democratic or popular institution. The president of each zone will be elected by the other delegates, who were, in turn, elected directly by the people. They were not only elected, but also nominated by the people. Representative and mass organizations will, of course, also participate in the councils. It will be a formidable instrument. There will be 93 presidents who, if they are professionals, will earn the same salary they were making before, so that they will dedicate themselves completely to the task, with the help of the other delegates of the zone. [applause]

The president of the council will have power. He will be the official who represents the people, the municipality, and the province. He will represent the government. All this is very clear. He will represent the people and the government in the council. If we are supported by the mass organizations, we will be able to curb many of the vices that still persist, and many other things that have resulted from the lack of control. I spoke today to some of the delegates to the sessions. I asked one of them: Can you tell when there is embezzlement in a business? He said: Yes. Can you tell when there are privileges or corruption? He said: Yes. That man will be the authority there. The council will try to see that those who work in corner stores and service centers are, as much as possible, men living in that zone or near it. [applause]

In those zones we have agencies that belong to city hall, to the province, or to the nation. A bakery is the same as a store or a cigar factory. The council presidents must be there, watching everything that goes on, imposing and demanding order. We reached that conclusion after discussions on convening the party congress. We kept in mind that it must be clear that consensus and broad majority views should exist in discussions on convening the congress, and that these must begin to be applied even before we get to the congress; they should be applied before we get to the congress. [applause]

It is my opinion that, in the capital, one of the most important tasks is to perfect the way the people's government works. The delegates will have authority. They will always have an authority who represents them, who will call on the municipalities and the provinces, wherever they are needed.

I intend to meet every so often with these 93 heads of the people's government. [applause] They will be able to tell us what is going on at the grocery store, the butcher shop, the restaurant, the saloon, anywhere. They will know what is going on there. They will be the representatives of the people and the socialist state in this struggle. They are not going to be managers. They are not going to be shuffling any paper or becoming involved in any bureaucratic procedures. When they begin their work, they will begin at a grocery store or at a defense committee office. They will work wherever there is a telephone to make calls.

You know that we have a telephone development program. We have been carrying it out, and we will continue it. Imagine, during a special period, there is probably even more talking. [laughter] We have a plan to install 200,000 telephones. We even have a factory to make the cables if we get the raw materials. The factory is already completed. It is San Jose de Las Lajas. We purchased many telephone lines. We bought them at a good price, because we took advantage of the conversion in which certain countries are involved. We bought them cheap. We paid one-tenth the normal price. They are newer than what we have. We bought them cheap, and we are installing them.

Each delegate or president will, therefore, probably get one telephone and perhaps a motorbike [applause, laughter]. This will help us in this battle. We must settle our matters to fight the vices that the people, with reason, criticize, and to fight forms of corruption. It is a battle that can only be won with the people and with the people's participation. Thus, we must fight a battle not only politically, but economically. It is a battle for efficiency. We must be proud soldiers of this era, this hour, this struggle, and this mission.

We must first save the homeland. [applause] We want a free and independent homeland. A land that is now more independent than ever. More independent than ever. [Castro repeats himself as heard] We want to always have a proud and independent homeland instead of a yankee colony. We must save the homeland. We must save the revolution. We must save socialism. This is the task we urge the 7.5 million CDR members to undertake today. Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win!

Malmierca: Country 'Will Not' Give Up Socialism

PA2909171290 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has stated before the UN General Assembly in New York that Cuba will never give up socialism, because it has granted social justice, sovereignty, and independence to the Cuban people.

While explaining Cuba's position regarding the conflict in the Arab Persian Gulf before the UN plenum, Foreign Minister Malmierca rejected Washington's determination to defeat the Cuban Revolution and he accused the United States of maintaining a double moral standard.

Malmierca said that the United States took advantage of the Gulf crisis to attain its old goal of stationing military forces in that area, while on many occasions it has refused to impose sanctions on Israel for its occupation of Arab territories.

Foreign Minister Malmierca stated that Cuba did not vote in favor of the resolution imposing an air embargo on Iraq, because it believes that the embargo will grant legality to such acts of piracy as those the U.S. Navy has already been conducting in the Gulf. Malmierca added that the UN resolution includes measures that are not

contained in the UN Charter and that hinder the shipment of humanitarian assistance, such as food and medicine to the Iraqi civilian population.

Radio Criticizes U.S. News 'Exploitation'

FL2809155490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1156 GMT 28 Sep 90

["Our Opinion" commentary read by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] At the Third Conference of Nonaligned Countries Information Ministers, which will be formally closed tomorrow, participating delegates have insistently stated that news reporting dominated by rich countries, particularly the United States, distorts the facts regarding Third World countries. Not only does the United States impose its hegemony over communications technology and devote enormous resources to information, there is an added element that is perhaps not very well known and analyzed. I refer to the utilization of public information for intelligence purposes.

I have here the latest issue of NEWSWEEK magazine, and I will translate excerpts of a report. It states: The CIA and other intelligence agencies are currently very pleased to see Saddam—this is a reference to the president of Iraq—and his cohorts on the screen and would like to see as much about them as possible.

Another part of the NEWSWEEK article quotes a high-ranking intelligence source as saying that the information broadcast by U.S. television channels, and I quote, is not the same as having a highly qualified spy there, but at least you are obtaining the government's public reaction. [no end quotation as heard] NEWSWEEK adds that analysts of the Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA, closely study television reports from Baghdad, where military vehicles often appear in the background. The magazine adds that the DIA analysts freeze the pictures and try to compare the equipment appearing there with the Iraqi military equipment listed in the Pentagon's computers to see if anything new has been introduced. The NEWSWEEK article states in conclusion, and again I quote: CIA doctors and psychologists closely study television interviews with Iraqi officials seeking signs of stress or concern. [no end quotation as heard]

As you can see, this utilization of television news dispatches by U.S. intelligence centers is obviously no contribution to the people's right to information. It is simply an illicit exploitation of the U.S. dominance in communications and access to resources for establishing a worldwide system for the gathering and distribution of information, data which is disseminated from the viewpoint of U.S. interests, and which even, knowingly or not, serves the purposes of that country's intelligence and espionage services.

Young Man Enters Canadian Embassy in Havana

PA2809202890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1852 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Havana, 28 Sep (EFE)— A young man who managed to get through police surveillance today entered the Canadian Embassy in Havana, Canadian diplomatic sources confirmed to EFE.

At present, the Cuban citizen's reasons for entering the embassy are unknown, and the Canadian diplomats have not yet explained the situation or the young man's purposes.

Recently, particularly between 9 July and 4 September, a total of 53 Cuban citizens have sought refuge at the embassies of Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and Belgium.

Those Cubans wanted to leave the country, but finally gave up and left the embassies after the Cuban Government guaranteed that no reprisals would be taken against them.

Radio Reports Version of Embassy Incident

FL0110145090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1413 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] On 29 September [as heard], citizen Orlando Patricio Dominguez de la Coba, who was serving a 30-year prison sentence, took advantage of his presence at an orthopedic prosthesis center to escape and break into the adjacent Canadian Embassy.

Dominguez de la Coba, who had been in prison since 1983, after his death sentence was commuted, was a member of a group of criminals who in April of that year had managed to steal weapons from a shooting range in Manicaragua, which they then used to kidnap two U.S. tourists. According to the newspaper GRANMA, the group held the tourists hostage for two hours and, when his goal of being allowed to leave the country was thwarted, Dominguez de la Coba fired at the Americans, wounding one of them. Since then, Dominguez de la Coba had been in prison until 29 September, when he managed to escape.

The prisoner Orlando Patricio Dominguez de la Coba was at the orthopedic prosthesis center where he was often treated, since he was missing an arm. In an attempt to fake illness, that individual had injected into both arms oil that he had taken from a workshop at the prison, making it necessary to amputate one of his upper extremities. After every effort to avoid amputation had been made, the prisoner had been receiving the appropriate treatment, including therapy, rehabilitation, and painstaking attention at the center, which is adjacent to the Canadian Embassy.

The Minrex [Foreign Ministry] is engaged in the appropriate consultations with the Canadian representation in our country, and trusts that, as is appropriate in those cases, the prisoner Dominguez de la Coba will be turned over to the corresponding authorities.

Nicaragua

Chamorro on Economy, Iraqi Sanctions, ICJ Suit

PA3009033290 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1847 GMT 27 Sep 90

[News conference by President Violeta Chamorro and Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus with foreign reporters and an unidentified moderator, in Conference Room No. 4 at the United Nations in New York—live, in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English]

[Excerpt] [Moderator] The president will make a statement, and then she will take your questions. I ask that you identify yourself and the organization that you represent before asking your question. Welcome, gentlemen, to the United Nations. The first question is from Mr. Schwarzmann, president of the Association of UN Correspondents.

[Schwarzmann] [Words indistinct] of the Association of UN Correspondents. The first question is as follows: Looking at Nicaragua from a distance, with its Army and part of the state and labor union apparatuses controlled by the Sandinists, does your government have the freedom to take action? Can you make decisions without being pressured?

[Chamorro] Of course. I was elected by people who want democracy. I am their leader; I am the leader of the National Army, the police, and all of Nicaragua. I was elected, and here I am.

[Moderator] Alexis Majano, UPI Radio.

[Majano] Alexis Majano of UPI Radio Newscast. Madame President, changes of government in Central America, such as those resulting from the Nicaraguan elections and the restoration of Panama's sovereignty, have led to the deportation of thousands of Nicaraguan political refugees residing in the United States. What is your point of view concerning this issue?

[Chamorro] Only yesterday someone asked me that same question in Miami. I have said many times that I am going to ask for special consideration for these people. Not all Nicaraguans have been able to return to their fatherland as quickly because they have no homes to return to, because of the war. They will soon return to Nicaragua, however, and a place will be waiting for them.

I am going to make a request to all of those here in the United States and any other place where there are many Nicaraguans. I ask that they be allowed to stay a while longer, here or elsewhere, and then be allowed to return to their country. Many homes have been lost. Lots of their property has been lost. There is no place to live. I have great faith, however, that we will receive considerable international aid, which will allow us to build many homes for homeless Nicaraguans. This is part of the unity and democracy that I am establishing in my fatherland.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Sandinist leader Daniel Ortega said on 26 September that if your economic plan is not reversed, there will be renewed reprisals, worse than those seen during the strikes. He described your economic plan as a policy of revenge against the Nicaraguan people. Ortega also said that he would condition the dialogue with the government to the suspension of the economic measures. Is the national dialogue you (?mentioned) in your speech possible, given this situation?

[Chamorro] As president, I am aware of everything that is happening. I just called the country, and I am ruling it from the United Nations. There are no problems in Nicaragua. Everything is running smoothly, as we say in Nicaragua.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Buenos Aires. Madame President, how many refugees have returned to Nicaragua, and how many are still abroad? Of those who have returned, have they been able to rejoin society?

[Chamorro] A great many Nicaraguans who have homes have returned, and since there is freedom in the country, they can come and go as they please. Many Nicaraguans have returned to their fatherland because democracy has been restored. In five months I have managed to establish a democracy and free elections, end the sad war, and eliminate the obligatory military service. Thousands of young men are returning to their homes, and their mothers are welcoming them with open arms. As I said today during my speech, no one is afraid to return to Nicaragua.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] During your speech this morning, you said that Nicaragua supports the UN sanctions against Iraq. Nevertheless, your government is negotiating the withdrawal of Nicaraga's complaint against the United States at the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. In 1986 the ICJ decreed that the United States was guilty of several counts of aggression against Nicaragua, and ordered that country to pay a substantial amount for damages. My question is, did your government make the decision to withdraw the suit at the ICJ in response to a suggestion by the United States during Ambassador Thomas Pickering's visit to Central America, and does your government believe, as Presidency Minister Lacayo has suggested, that good relations with the United States hinge on this decision?

[Chamorro] Look, I will ask my foreign minister to answer that question.

[Dreyfus] Thank you, Mrs. Chamorro. In the first place, the Nicaraguan Government is not holding any negotiations with the U.S. Government. In the second place, we have never been pressured by the U.S. Government. In the third place, what occurred before at The Hague took place between two enemy governments: The government of the

Reagan administration and the government of former President Ortega. Today the situation has changed, and we are two friendly governments: The Bush administration and the Violeta Chamorro administration.

[Moderator] Yes, sir [words indistinct].

[Zubieta] My name is Carlos Zubieta, from UPI Radio News. Mrs. Chamorro, you mentioned in your speech that you dream about the demilitarization of Central America, and that you want the zone to become an area of peace and cooperation. Will Nicaragua sponsor the demilitarization of the zone, and what steps must be followed to fulfill this goal?

[Chamorro] We, the Central Americans, meaning the five Central American presidents, are working together to demilitarize our homelands and to have a small army in each country. Personally speaking, as I said in my speech, in the last five months, I have drastically reduced the size of the Army. When I received the Army, it had 90,000 troops, and now there are approximately 33,000 troops. I believe that all the other Central American countries will...[corrects herself] want to follow our example.

[Moderator] Mr. Mena.

[Mena] Oscar Mena from [words indistinct]. The United States has proposed a free trade area that might include all of North and South America. What do you think of this idea, and what do you think the results will be for Central America?

[Chamorro] I support all free trade policies with all countries of Central America, South America, Europe, and elsewhere. I welcome anything that will benefit our homeland.

[Moderator] Yes, sir, [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mrs. Chamorro, do you feel that the problems in Central and Latin America are being neglected at the United Nations, given its preoccupation with the Gulf crisis?

[Chamorro] No, quite the contrary, I feel that the United Nations has strongly supported my homeland. In fact, I have come to thank them for this, because they helped tremendously by supervising our elections. Many other countries also participated. Approximately 2,000 observers and approximately 3,000 journalists came to Nicaragua, so I owe the United Nations a debt of gratitude. I will also ask them not to abandon us, because we need their supervision.

[Moderator] Yes, sir [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] if you could do it, would you disband the Army as former president Jose Figueres did in Costa Rica?

[Chamorro] I did not hear the question.

[Moderator] Would you repeat your question, please?

[Chamorro] Please speak a little louder.

[Reporter] If it were constitutionally possible, would you like to speed the process being carried out in your country? Also, if you were able to, would you disband the Army like former president Jose Figueres did in Costa Rica?

[Chamorro] The Nicaraguan Army is being greatly reduced. Perhaps you are not aware of it. When I assumed power, the army numbered 85,000 men. We are now down to 35,000 and we will reduce the levels of the Army until we reach the size of a small Costa Rican-style army. I do not know if you know that I recently confiscated weapons that were in the wrong hands. We are going to build a monument to peace. Buried weapons mean peace. We also demobilized the Nicaraguan Resistance through a mutual agreement. We are doing all this for peace.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mrs. President, are you considering sending any troops to the Persian Gulf to support efforts against Iraq?

[Chamorro] Not right now. I am not sending any troops because I am reducing the Army. We have very few soldiers left, just enough to defend our country.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] I would like to know if you are satisfied with the aid you have received from the United States, and if it has been enough to help your country, which is facing very difficult economic times?

[Chamorro] It is well known that the United States offered to help Nicaragua with $300 million, with conditions. We have already received $60 million, and I believe that yesterday or the day before, $120 million was received. Another part of this assistance, $30 million, was marked for the Nicaraguan Resistance, and it is being handled by the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America]. The money is arriving slowly. With this $300 million, we cannot solve all our problems in Nicaragua. That amount is not enough for us to live or to pay our huge debt. I hope that all those countries of good will, who want to help Nicaragua, will do so. I know that in Rome and in all the friendly European countries, like the Netherlands, people are helping us. These countries will help us rebuild our country. I hope that the United States will give us more aid, if it wants to. If any other country [nine-second break in reception] my country, not for me, or for weapons.

[Moderator] Miss Ward.

[Ward] My question is along the same lines as the preceding question. If you could ask for additional aid, beside money, what would you want?

[Chamorro] Look Miss, excuse me, Miss or Mrs. Ward, I can tell you that as of right now, I will gladly welcome

any aid offered to us, be it medicine, clothing, or shoes. We need assistance for the people who have been maimed. We need crutches and walking canes, like the one I am using. We need hospital supplies. We have 1,500 orphans left in the Nicaraguan Resistance. There are also other orphans. Please do not think our situation is wonderful. I know that if people think about our circumstances, we will get some substantial aid packages.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Bierde] Bierde from EL HERALDO of Mexico City. A few days ago, the five Central American presidents met. You said that....

[Chamorro, interrupting] With whom?

[Bierde] With the five Central American presidents.

[Chamorro] A few days ago?

[Bierde] I am sorry, a few months ago.

[Chamorro] In Antigua?

[Bierde] Yes. That is right. You said that despite everything, although you are the president, many weapons are going to El Salvador and the rest of Central America. Can this be prevented?

[Chamorro] Of course, it can. I am against weapons. I have asked all the presidents in the region to report illegal arms trafficking, if they are aware of it. It is completely illegal. I will not allow it.

[Bierde] Weapons are still arriving. How is it possible that you are aware of this and yet unable to do anything about it? Or are you thinking of doing something specifically?

[Chamorro] Right now, nothing is happening.

[Bierde] Many people have said that....

[Chamorro, interrupting] What?

[Bierde] The Salvadoran and Honduran guerrillas claim that they are still receiving weapons.

[Chamorro] I wish that the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments would denounce this so that we can take action.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] I represent a Polish newspaper. I would like to ask whether you believe that the superpower rivalry has now ended? Do the Latin American countries think the same way, even though Cuba still has well-known ties with the USSR [question as heard]?

[Chamorro] My government is going to have or has relations with all the countries of the world, and we will continue to have relations with those countries that had close relations with the former government. [passage omitted]

Godoy Assesses Presidency Assumption Issue

PA2809175190 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Interview with Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes by unidentified reporter on 27 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We are conducting an interview with Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes at a nationally important time. As everyone knows, the president is currently absent from the country because she has gone to the United States for a week. The president has not entrusted her presidential authority with Dr. Virgilio Godoy. We have also heard, however, that Godoy is planning a trip to Finland and Dr. Miriam Arguello, president of the National Assembly, is planning a trip to South America. The first question we ask of Dr. Godoy, therefore, is how will this country manage with a vacuum in power, especially at such a critical time as this?

[Godoy] Well, [words indistinct], actually we have been reviewing this situation because half of the Cabinet is outside the country; the president left for New York this morning [as heard]. In a few days, the president of the National Assembly will travel to Uruguay. I was also planning a trip to Helsinki, Finland in early October, beginning on Monday of next week [1 October]. In view of all of these events, however, I have decided to put my trip on hold, because obviously the country cannot be left without an authority present within the national territory. I will have to put off my trip, therefore, and stay in Nicaragua and follow events closely.

[Reporter] Dr. Godoy, from your personal point of view, do you think it is appropriate for the president to be absent. Is it more important for her to be in the United States or to be in Nicaragua?

[Godoy] I would say that the situation in Nicaragua is so difficult and complex that practically anything can be justified. The president probably wants to use the United Nations as a huge international forum to denounce the destabilizing actions of those who were defeated in last February's elections in Nicaragua. She is also there to ask for support from the international community for the preservation of law and order, as well as democracy in Nicaragua. She will be present at the UN General Assembly, which gathers almost all the other presidents of the world at this time of the year. She will also be present at the children's forum promoted by UNICEF, which 80 presidents will attend. Her presence there will be important because she will be able to tell the presidents about the harassment to which the government has been subjected by the armed party, [words indistinct] which was overwhelmingly defeated in the 25 February elections.

[Reporter] Everyone is asking why it is that President Chamorro did not delegate the Presidency to you, in compliance with the Constitution. Everyone is also

asking who the authority in Nicaragua is right now. How do you respond to such questions?

[Godoy] We have here several considerations. First, for some time now, and chiefly since 1979, Nicaragua has been living under de facto conditions rather than a state of law. Thus, ceremonies customary for these cases have never been formalized—by that I mean a document to certify that the president has left the country and that the Presidency has been formally left in the hands of the president's replacement, who in this case happens to be the vice president. This is how things now stand. From another viewpoint, the Constitution leaves no room for doubt on this matter. Article 145 states that the vice president performs the duties entrusted with him by the president and will replace the president in cases of temporary or permanent absences.

What is more, paragraph one of Article 149 is even more clear. It reads as follows: During the temporary absence of the president, the vice president will take over the president's duties, period. That is perfectly clear and needs no further study or interpretation. This means that although no document has been formally written and the Presidency has not been delegated, the Constitution states who the president is when the current president leaves the country, is absent, or is away. The vice president temporarily assumes that duty.

[Reporter] Does this mean that you are automatically the president? What procedure is there to fulfill that role?

[Godoy] This is what has happened automatically. Still pending to be established is how this will be implemented. It may be that nothing happens, or that no development may arise that requires the president to sign something or make a decision. If it did, the highest authority in the nation right now is the Vice Presidency.

[Reporter] Can any Nicaraguan citizen demand that the Constitution be complied with?

[Godoy] Certainly. Any Nicaraguan is entitled to make any request; this is something that is also mentioned in the Constitution. In the near future, however, we will have to clearly establish this issue so that we do not have all sorts of speculation as to whether or not this happens, whether or not this is done, or if it is done, how it is done. We have heard remarks that also contribute toward creating the feeling that something is not clear.

Yesterday morning, when Mrs. Chamorro left the country, as the airplane was taking off, a top government official said that there was no transfer of presidential authority because she is the president inside and outside Nicaragua. No one is arguing that. Clearly, she is the president wherever she goes. The exercise of those duties, however—not the title—corresponds to the official who stays in the country, and those duties are outlined in an expressed and clear manner in the constitutional articles I mentioned.

[Reporter] To conclude this interview, how do you view the possibility of reconciliation between UNO [National Opposition Union] and the Chamorro government? Have steps been taken in that direction?

[Godoy] I would say so. There is an increasingly strong rapprochement between the government and UNO and the UNO Political Council. As a matter of fact, and as a sign that this is so, for the first time—and this is not the first time Mrs. Chamorro has left the country, as she has gone on several occasions to Costa Rica and Guatemala, and now she has gone farther up to Mexico [as heard]—the UNO Political Council went to the international airport yesterday morning to wish her success.

[Reporter] This is really the conclusion. Is there an urgent need for the National Assembly to interpret what the Constitution states regarding presidential transfer? Will this work be left in the hands of the Assembly?

[Godoy] I believe that if anyone wants to clarify this matter even more, they can ask the Presidency or the National Assembly to make what is referred to as an authentic interpretation of the law. The National Assembly drafted the Constitution and has the power to interpret what it meant to say when it used the terms it did in Articles 145 and 149. I do not think this is necessary, but if someone wants to, that is fine. I think he will find an answer in line with the clarity of the constitutional text.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the conditions for a dialogue?

[Godoy] This has become the most talked-about issued in recent days, chiefly by the virulent FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] news media, since President Chamorro called for the dialogue. In fact, it has been said the FSLN will torpedo or dismantle the dialogue, beginning next week, on 1 October. To that effect, it has begun its first drills in creating unrest with the takeover of bus terminals. Also, yesterday they tried to paralyze Managua's schools. They have conducted other drills in the financial system and other areas of the country. The takeover of land, shootings, etc. that have taken place are part of those drills. It is good, however, to mention all that because the FSLN does not want a consensus. It wants the government to get down on its knees and bow to the FSLN mandates.

During their recent assembly—as they call it because the FSLN is very strange, it has an assembly and a national directorate and everything is mixed together, but one does not know if [words indistinct]—they decided what those conditions are, from their standpoint.

Incredibly, they publicly stated those conditions. They want the government to thoroughly comply with those harmful agreements signed by the ministries and the FSLN unions before 25 April. Those agreements were designed to make the government collapse due to its inability to pay or to meet those commitments.

Not satisfied with that, they want the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance who have invaded land, because the government has not fulfilled its promise to give them land, to be evicted, but not FSLN members who do the same thing. They want one group to be evicted while the other group, members of the FSLN, must be given the land they invaded. Also, they want to prevent the return of properties based on Decree 11-90 and prevent any economic measure from being adopted without consulting the FSLN.

This is all very funny. In other words, the conditions proposed by the FSLN to participate in the national dialogue would make the government play like an orchestra directed by the FSLN, or better, a government at the service of and submissive to the FSLN's pretensions. Obviously this is not possible or advisable, and it was not what the Nicaraguan people voted for on 25 February. The Nicaraguan people will defend their right to self-determination, just as they decided in the past elections.

[Reporter] Do you have anything else to add before ending this interview?

[Godoy] With the high sense of maturity and responsibility the Nicaraguan people have been showing, they should turn deaf ears to the FSLN's provocations and incitements to again create disorder in our national life. We must remember that the commanders have their banking accounts in dollars abroad, and that many FSLN leaders have similar fortunes that they made during the past government. The people in general will have to pay for the broken dishes as a result of further deterioration in our economy. What happened in July can happen again in October.

I believe that just as the people yesterday did not support the ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] protesters ...[changes thought] They only managed to gather approximately 500 people in the streets, even though they claim they have broad support. They only managed to round up 500 out of the 35,000 teachers in the country, and not all of those who marched yesterday were teachers. I ask the people, therefore, not to listen to their demands and incitements and to remember that Nicaragua must solve a crisis that affects us all, a crisis that will worsen if the FSLN provokes another rebellion and is allowed to conduct a rebellion in October.

Claims TV Access Denied

PA2809190490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Sep 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Last night, Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy withdrew, piqued, from the National State Television installations, after he was denied access to speak before the cameras on the country's political situation.

Godoy arrived at approximately 2100 hours at the state television studios, accompanied by members of the UNO [National Opposition Union] Political Council, who had been meeting with him since 1800 that afternoon.

The vice president threatened to go to the presidential palace tomorrow to assume the Presidency, which in his opinion is lacking a responsible authority in view of President Violeta Chamorro's absence.

In statements to local radio stations, Godoy said that he is acting president, but he did not dismiss the possibility that he would not be allowed to enter the presidential palace.

President Violeta Chamorro left on Wednesday for New York and will be out of the country for one week.

"No one has objected to the presidential status of Mrs. Chamorro," Godoy said. He asked, however, how "a president of the republic, who leaves the country, can exercise the authority of the Presidency from abroad?"

Godoy insisted that article 149 of the Constitution is quite clear when it establishes that the vice president "will assume" the post in the president's absence. "It is illogical that the executive branch is without a leader. Supposedly, someone should be in charge," Godoy explained.

The vice president (acting vice president?) questioned the talks held on Wednesday between Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo and former President Daniel Ortega.

No matter how much of a minister of the Presidency he is, Godoy said, "if he does not receive authorization, if he does not consult [with me] on everything stemming from those negotiations, they cannot be authenticated."

"He is not the president and he is not the acting president, but one minister among many others in the Cabinet, and this must be made perfectly clear," Godoy remarked.

The government situation created by the president's absence was also discussed on Wednesday at the National Assembly when several deputies, including parliamentary President Miriam Arguello, expressed their uneasiness with the executive branch's position of not leaving an acting president to replace Chamorro.

Discounts Alleged Presidency Takeover

PA2909140490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1206 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy has reported that the pro-Sandinist media have spread rumors that he was going to take over the office of the Presidency during the absence of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro. This is an example of the news reporting of the two pro-Sandinist newspapers—EL NUEVO DIARIO and BARRICADA—the reporting of which over the past few days has become informal and irresponsible, Vice President Godoy told the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA.

On 28 September, Godoy met with Government Minister Carlos Hurtado for what he described as a normal working meeting. Approximately 200 policemen stood guard around the Presidency. Government Ministry officials, however, described this type of activity around the offices of President Chamorro as normal. Over the past few days, peaceful demonstrations have taken place around the Presidential Palace to demand that the government resolve the country's problems.

Lacayo Warns Country Threatened With Anarchy

PA2909170190 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Ana Maria Ruiz]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has warned that Nicaragua is threatened with anarchy because extremist Sandinist groups have tried to create chaos, strikes, and uprisings.

This attitude, the minister said, "might endanger the democracy achieved in February, and it might provoke a situation in which the country will not be able to decide what direction it wants to take."

"We might face, in one month or soon afterwards, a situation in which probably no one would want to assume control of the country's government."

Lacayo gave a lengthy statement on the current situation, following the Sandinist leaders' appeal to Sandinist extremists, calling for "civilian disobedience." This happened publicly during the "Democracy in the Making" program that was broadcast on 25 September evening over national television.

Minutes after bidding farewell to President Violeta de Chamorro this morning, Minister Lacayo was sought out by local and foreign journalists, who asked if the country was in the same condition it was in when President Chamorro had left it on previous occasions. He answered: "Mrs. Chamorro is still the president of all Nicaraguans living inside and outside of Nicaragua."

Lacayo warned about the serious economic situation due to what he called "objective conditions," and he said that these conditions include socialist countries that had previously helped Nicaragua no longer being able to do so because their economies do not allow it. This is compounded by the fact that the price of oil for Nicaragua has increased from $16 to $34, more than doubling.

He stated that the government has created the minimum conditions necessary for rebuilding Nicaragua and achieving progress—including peace, tolerance, disarmament, the granting of amnesties, the creation of democratic opportunities, and negotiations for full guarantees for all the groups involved.

Lacayo emphasized that "no country wishes to help another that fails to come to agreements."

Lacayo added that Nicaragua is trying to build the same type of economy that other countries around the world have—with the exception of Cuba, the DPRK, and the PRC. The latter lost the opportunity last year following the massacre in the square that we all saw on television.

Lacayo said that this is an economy open to foreign investment and free trade, and that it is trying to optimize the use of the resources available in the country.

It would be deplorable to ruin everything because we cannot reach an agreement, Lacayo said.

In that case, the world would have no choice but to abandon us to our fate; and the only losers would be the future generations of Nicaraguans, who would never forgive us, he said.

The minister said: As long as we have a de jure state, which was achieved in the February elections, all Nicaraguans will continue to have the same opportunities to participate in the life of the nation and in the adoption of its decisions, he added.

Rules Out 'Coup d'Etat' Possibility

PA2909024890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1655 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo made statements this morning on the overall crisis prevailing in the country. Lacayo said that the match that will spark a social upheaval is in the hands of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. He believes, however, that the Sandinists will not use it to make the situation in the country explode. Lacayo also ruled out the possibility of a coup d'etat. He appealed to the various social sectors that identify with the FSLN opposition party to participate in the consultations.

Lacayo held a news conference today with local and international reporters. He stated the following about the dialogue process that is underway between the FSLN and the government.

[Lacayo] *The government is trying to get the country's opposition sectors to attend the national dialogue. FSLN labor and union sectors did not attend the national dialogue process to which they were invited by the government. As we said on that occasion and as has been said by the parties involved in the dialogue, we believe that it is very important for these sectors to attend the national dialogue. If they attend, then the agreements that are reached will have more backing and support and the solutions adopted by all of us will be healthier for this country, which belongs to all of us. In that sense, I met with former President Ortega. We talked at length about the economic situation and about the FSLN's concern over social problems. We found that we—the government and the opposition—share concerns over these social problems. That is precisely why Dona Violeta is asking for*

special treatment from the international community. In the communique issued by the press and information directorate yesterday, I reiterated the government's desire for the FSLN, UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], and other sectors to attend the national dialogue. We reviewed a list of actions that can be taken to improve the climate in the country, increasing the possibility that these sectors will attend the negotiating table and that the national dialogue will end successfully in the next two weeks.

That was what Minister Antonio Lacayo said about the dialogue. He gave details, however, on the meeting held yesterday between Antonio Lacayo, the government delegate; U.S. ambassador Harry Shlaudeman, who left today for the United States; FSLN leader Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra; and Francesco Vincenti, who is the UN representative in the Nicaraguan capital. Lacayo stated the following about the meeting:

[Lacayo] *I am pleased with the invitation sent yesterday afternoon by Mr. Francesco Vincenti, the UN representative in Managua. He invited the government and the FSLN to see how the United Nations, specifically, and the international community can provide more support to Nicaragua in its effort to mitigate the adverse socioeconomic problems. Also invited to the meeting was Ambassador Shlaudeman, who represents a country which has a tremendous economic capability and which has demonstrated its will to help Nicaragua—as it already has with the U.S. Congress' approval of aid to Nicaragua. Both the government and the opposition are of the opinion that Nicaragua should receive more support, given the fact that the country finds itself helpless because of the war it experienced over the past few years. Yesterday's talks were also on this same subject. I believe that the meeting was very constructive.*

Another announcement made by Minister Lacayo, which will lower the tension within the government, is that in October the water and electricity rates will be reduced because of the new exchange rate for the gold cordoba, or foreign cordoba [cordoba extranjero].

[Lacayo] *The two-thirds of the consumers of our country's water and energy services—who are in fact our society's most needy, vulnerable, and affected groups—will experience a certain relief thanks to the new exchange rate at which they will pay their tariffs. They will pay in gold cordobas. The new exchange rate will be valid in October.*

During the last few months, the government has been implementing a policy through which the exchange rate at which these services are paid for each month is the one that is valid on the last day of the previous month. This means that next month, these groups will use today's exchange rate, which is 1.18 million cordobas per gold cordoba. The government has decided to fix the exchange rate in October at 1 million cordobas.

Presidency Minister Lacayo also said that today he will meet with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to inform him of all the measures that the government is adopting and of the way these measures relate to the convocation of the national dialogue and the national dialogue itself. Lacayo said that this afternoon he will also meet with National Opposition Union [UNO] representatives.

Another very important topic discussed by Presidency Minister Lacayo deals with the surveillance being kept around the Presidency this morning. Some think that this is a protection measure, in case Virgilio Godoy assumes the presidency. Minister Lacayo said that Dr. Godoy's statements were misinterpreted. Lacayo said that the government is not considering that possibility and that President Chamorro continues to be the president despite the fact that she is in New York. Lacayo also commented on the possibility of a coup d'etat in Nicaragua, saying:

[Lacayo] *A coup d'etat is carried out by an Army. General Humberto Ortega has made clear statements both publicly and privately. He has said that the Army will abide by the Constitution. Gen. Ortega made an oath of loyalty not only to the Constitution but also to President Violeta de Chamorro. Gen. Ortega in fact reiterated this loyalty one day before President Chamorro left for the United Nations. I have no doubts about the loyalty that the Sandinist People's Army pays to the Constitution. There is no possibility of a coup d'etat in this country. The Army is not planning a coup d'etat either.*

After this explanation, Lacayo began discussing the talks between the FSLN and the government. Lacayo confirmed that the government is firm in its position regarding the abrogation of certain decrees protested by the FSLN. Let us listen to what Lacayo said about the talks:

[Lacayo] *We are discussing political and economic issues. We are making efforts to help groups, such as those disabled by war, who are affected by the country's economic and social problems. That is why I said earlier that we had already reached an agreement on that issue. We are also dealing with financial issues. We are discussing political matters dealing with the abrogation of certain decrees. The FSLN has been demanding this abrogation for some time now, but we will not abrogate those decrees, because they represent the way the government has been leading this country. We will not be part of the so-called cogovernment that is being criticized. The day the FSLN governs this country again as a result of elections, it will issue whatever decrees it considers necessary, but for the time being this government believes it is its responsibility to issue these decrees. If the National Assembly believes, however, that some of those decrees do not help improve the country's situation, it could obviously order their abrogation and the executive branch would fully abide by any law issued by the National Assembly.*

Let us listen to what Lacayo said about a possible social explosion.

[Lacayo] *The only one that can start the fire is the FSLN. This country will not experience a social explosion if the FSLN, as a political party, does not get the match near the*

dynamite. The rest of Nicaraguan society is extremely willing to find solutions to the problems. If the FSLN also displays that goodwill, there will be no social explosion in our country. In fact, we believe that insofar as the dialogue mechanisms are strengthened and insofar as the FSLN participates in the national dialogue, the country will find joint solutions to its serious problems. At that point, the social bomb would begin defusing. Thus, I frankly do not think that people here want to experience a social explosion. Nicaraguans, including the FSLN leaders, are very aware that a social explosion in Nicaragua is not feasible.

These have been the statements by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo regarding various issues including the national dialogue, the country's current political situation, the ruling out of a possible coup d'etat in the country, and the impossibility of a social explosion in the country. Thank you very much.

Communique on Lacayo, Ortega Talks Issued

PA2809214990 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has sent LA PRENSA this communique:

The Presidency's Information and Press Directorate hereby reports that last night Minister of Presidency Antonio Lacayo held a working meeting with ex-President Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's Executive Committee. During the meeting Ortega and Lacayo discussed subjects related to the country's economic and social situation and the national dialogue convoked by the government.

During the meeting Minister Lacayo reasserted to former President Ortega the government's willingness to include Sandinist labor organizations and unions in the economic and social national dialogue that will continue next week. Minister Lacayo also invited the Sandinist leader so that together, the government and the opposition, may contribute with their best efforts to create an atmosphere of trust and stability which guarantees the success of that national dialogue and allows the definite solution to the economic crisis that the country has been suffering in recent years.

Ortega Discusses UN Meeting, Current 'Crisis'

PA2809154590 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Interview with former President Daniel Ortega Saavedra by Silvio Rodriguez for the "Impacts and News" program in Managua on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] A meeting was held this afternoon at the UN offices [in Managua] at the initiative of UN Representative Francesco Vincenti. It was his initiative to call this meeting, which was attended by [Presidency Minister Antonio] Lacayo, U.S. Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman, and myself. This shows the great concern that exists regarding the serious crisis affecting the Nicaraguan people. We exchanged views on that subject and also on the role that the international community must play, particularly now.

I recalled that during the Sandinist government, efforts were made to obtain support from the international community to bring stability to our country. The situation is the same today. I also said that finding a prompt solution for the grave situation affecting the Nicaraguan people will depend on the efforts of the Nicaraguan people and the response from the international community. We may otherwise face a worse crisis in the near future, and the international community may have to pay attention to the Nicaraguan problem, but by then the crisis would have a higher social, economic, and political cost.

[Rodriguez] What do you mean by social and political cost?

[Ortega] I am referring to all the accumulated effects of the crisis, in other words, instability in all those aspects and the risk of experiencing greater social explosions, more confrontations, and greater tension, which tend to multiply quickly.

[Rodriguez] Is U.S. Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman willing to contribute toward resolving the current crisis the Nicaraguan people are facing?

[Ortega] He would have to answer that question himself. He was present at the meeting. He participated and logically expressed his views. I cannot, however, speak for him. I can only express my views. I do not feel that these meetings can be kept secret, because they are not illegal meetings.

These meetings are being held for the healthy purpose of finding a solution to the problems that have arisen. These meetings must, therefore, become true Face the People meetings. In other words, we must be in constant touch with the population to announce the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] positions at these meetings. It will be up to the government to announce its stand, and in this case, the U.S. ambassador will also have to announce the U.S. position.

[Rodriguez] Commander, regarding the concerted effort process, what is the outlook....[changes thought] How about the dialogue you held with the minister of the Presidency, do you think the FSLN might participate in the process? Did the government invite the FSLN to participate in the process?

[Ortega] We presented 10 points for the government to consider. We are striving so that conditions will be created to allow a truly constructive dialogue, a fruitful dialogue which will lead to a national agreement, which will in turn be defended by the Nicaraguans before the international community. In other words, this will be an extraordinary economic program for a country that is experiencing a postwar situation. This program should

be defended before the IMF and before the international community, which will thus lead to special treatment for Nicaragua.

[Rodriguez] Commander, you talked about assistance from the interntional community to pull the country out of the crisis. How can the international community specifically help the country?

[Ortega] I believe that we need urgent, immediate action; something we could call first aid. We also need a program, an overall plan, that will entail the economic and social rehabilitation of the country, as well as adjustment measures. This should all be coordinated. This should be a special program to seek the support of the international community.

[Rodriguez] Commander, recently there have been confrontations between demobilized contras and farmers, who are members of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen [UNAG]. What is the FSLN position regarding these conflicts in the northern region of the country?

[Ortega] The UNAG farmers and the demobilized contra farmers cannot and should not descend to confrontation. Land should be found for them; there is enough land that is not being properly utilized in the hands of the large landholders. There is land that belongs to the state that is not being utilized.

A bank of land could be established to resolve the demands of the demobilized contra farmers, as well as those farmers who have been demanding land and have not received any. We feel the demobilized contra farmers should have their problems resolved. I believe that there is enough land in Nicaragua to distribute to those farmers who are willing to work the land.

Commentator Defends FSLN Government Position

PA2809165890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1524 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] We wish to offer a brief commentary in view of the country's existing difficult situation. There is notorious intransigence. The official wing, UNO [National Opposition Union], has tried to prepare adequate conditions for an authentic national dialogue. It has, however, demonstrated a vengeful and nonconciliatory attitude by [word indistinct] the eminently political role of the directors of state and private primary and secondary schools. In no way does this contribute to the democratic process, which, beginning on 19 July 1979, reached its ultimate demonstration in the 25 February elections, lost by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] through the popular vote that gave UNO the victory, and the historic transfer of power.

Democracy is not only a word, but a permanent attitude of a government relating to the life of an entire nation. Democracy can never be demonstrated with the actions staged thus far by the UNO Government. In view of that situation, the FSLN has the historic obligation of placing itself in front of the majority of the people who have been dismissed form their work places, who will be dismissed from their work sites, and who have been deprived of social benefits—such as the rice, beans, and sugar package; the free benefits for the students and professors; the periodic reevaluations of the pensions for retired, disabled, and mothers of heroes and martyrs, among other things. The FSLN must stay ahead of the high cost of living—water, electricity, foodstuffs—and work to preserve the many liberties that are gradually being lost by the majority and even some minorities.

What will happen now? The FSLN walked out of the parliament when the congress last night approved a measure that designated the status of thousands of professors, who had been directors, as trusted employees. Former President Daniel Ortega Saavedra is exerting great effort to achieve a genuine national dialogue. The parliament has meanwhile formed commissions, and Vice President Virgilio Godoy has threatened to occupy the presidential palace today, even as a heavy police cordon surrounds it. Minister Antonio Lacayo has meanwhile stated that President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, who is in New York, is the president of Nicaragua. What will happen? Stay tuned to our broadcasts in the coming minutes and hours.

Teachers Demonstrate To Protest Dimissals

PA2909162090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Over 2,000 teachers demonstrated today in front of the National Assembly because of threats of dismissal for approximately 10,000 teachers. Last night on television, Deputy Education Minister Humberto Belli denied on television that anyone was thinking of firing teachers. To the contrary, we have hired over 600 new teachers, he said. Nevertheless, ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] Secretary General Mario Quintana reported that since the Chamorro government came to office, about 600 teachers have been dismissed, 70 of them permanently. The teachers' leader said that this Education Ministry cutback was announced by the economic cabinet ministers during the national dialogue talks. Police allowed a 50-member delegation to enter the National Assembly, where the teachers witnessed the report being presented by the teachers' leader, Assembly Deputy Nathan Sevilla.

FNT's Jimenez Confirms 1 Oct Civil Strike

PA2909152090 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Sep 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] The national protest is still set for 1 October, Lucio Jimenez of the National Workers' Front [FNT] stated after a two-hour meeting with Government Minister Carlos Hurtado. The meeting with the FNT national leaders was held in the Silvio Mayorga Building.

The minister did not comment on the results of the meeting. An official of the Public Relations Office stated: "The minister called the meeting to ascertain why the FNT refuses to participate in the national dialogue and why it is calling for civil disobedience."

Jimenez said that the worker representatives complained to the minister about the government's lack of seriousness in their failure to fulfill agreements. They also blamed the government for the disruption of public order.

"We broached the current situation faced by workers with the threat of 18,000 dismissals, the manifest will of the government to give privileges to the rich, and the return of enterprises that took so long to become operational, all of which shows the government's limited negotiating capacity," Jimenez added.

He described the meeting as "an open and frank conversation." Asked by reporters about threats or intimidation, he said that subsequent events will define the real nature of the meeting.

If the government really wants to reach an agreement, it must fulfill the agreements that it signed and stop abusing the people's rights and disrupting public order," Jimenez concluded.

University Students To Join Protest

PA3009193890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] UCA [Central American University] students have decided by consensus to participate in the national day of civil protest that will be held on 1 October. Student leader Pastora Sandino reported that students from different departments would form a human chain at the university campus. The human chain will not obstruct traffic passing in front of UCA, Sandino stated. Let us hear Pastora Sandino's statements:

[Begin Sandino recording] Well, here in the university we have talked to students in different departments. In some departments we have talked to students in each classroom and in others we also held general assemblies. This was done so that the students would reach a decision by consensus here at the university. The position of our sector is to support the civil protest of the FNT [National Workers Front] on 1 October.

We were scheduled to start taking our first exams of the semester on 1 October. We told the students that it is inappropriate to take exams on the scheduled date due to the situation in the country. We proposed that we continue attending classes, but postpone exams for a week, until approximately 8 October. We also agreed to hold civic activities to support the protest. At 1100 on 1 October we will mobilize to form a human chain in front of the university. We will try not to obstruct traffic. Our demonstration will be peaceful. We will distribute pamphlets that support the [word indistinct] front to persons in vehicles passing in front of the university. [end recording]

Godoy Urges Prevention of Rally

PA0110012990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Managua, 30 Sep (AFP)—Vice President Virgilio Godoy called today for the prevention of the civil disobedience activities scheduled for 1 October by the Sandinist labor unions to protest the economic measures recently implemented by the government.

Participating in festivities in honor of the patron saint of Masaya, 30 km south of Managua, Godoy said that "the defeated must not be allowed to raise their heads," alluding to the organizers of the 24-hour protest.

Godoy, considered to be the hardliner within the government, said that "only a few hours are left before we prove to them whether or not we are capable of doing what we want to do," although he did not expand on the subject. He was interrupted several times by a few followers who shouted their requests that the Sandinists be annihilated.

In addition, Lucio Jimenez, a leader of the People's Struggle Front [FLP], made up of six labor federations, two unions, and a community movement, said that they expect to mobilize 60,000 workers.

The labor union coalition hopes to start the drive by setting fire to old tires, holding rallies, and finally ending with a march toward the Presidency late in the afternoon.

Yesterday, ex-president Daniel Ortega denied that the activity is intended to overthrow President Violeta de Chamorro, as some government politicians have said. He said, however, that "the government has paved the way" for spontaneous demonstrations.

Last week, Chamorro presented an economic plan that calls for 25,000 public employees to be fired, reprivatization, and a new fiscal policy.

Panama

Presidential Palace Reportedly Machine-Gunned

PA2909164090 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Panama City, 29 Sep (AFP)—Unidentified individuals directed machine-gun fire at the presidential Palace of the Herons in Panama City early this morning, causing a large mobilization of elite police units, witnesses reported.

The attack, the first against the presidential palace since the U.S. December invasion that ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega, took place as President Guillermo Endara is in New York, participating in the UN General Assembly.

Several witnesses told the progovernment Radio Soberana Civilista that the machine-gun fire began at 0100 (0600 GMT) today, and they said that the two

occupants of the vehicle, from which the attack came, fled, abandoning the vehicle about six km from the presidential palace.

Journalists confirmed that police "antiterrorism" units have increased security in the area of the presidential palace and have begun to search vehicles.

The local press reported last week that the police exchanged gunfire with an unidentified vessel approximately three km from the presidential palace, which is located in a coastal area of the capital.

Nevertheless, the authorities have remained completely silent about the incident.

An alleged subversive group called M-20 [20 December Movement] meanwhile has claimed responsibility for several attacks in the capital and in Chiriqui Province, 450 km west of the capital.

Further on Shooting Incident

PA2909184690 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1739 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Report on interview with Presidential Security chief Carlos Bares by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] New incidents at the Presidency, including gunfire, have taken place while President Guillermo Endara Galamany is away in New York. An incident took place today at 0130 [0630 GMT], when two unidentified persons riding a rented blue Mitsubishi four-door vehicle, license plate no. 8-53696, violently broke through onto the grounds of the Presidency and drove past the security cordon on Fifth Street. The shooting started when the two in the vehicle drove off Eloy Alfaro Avenue and into the sea, where the vehicle sank. Inexplicably, the car's passengers were not found, and so it is believed they escaped.

This was the scene this morning, the presidential guard was patrolling the entire area, spreading panic and fear among area residents.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] What has happened?

[Second unidentified speaker?] A [word indistinct] attempt.

[First speaker] Is that so? Look, my legs are shaking....

[Unidentified persons heard shouting in the background: "Turn off the lights! Turn off the lights! Turn off the lights!"] [end recording]

Presidential Security chief Carlos Bares confirmed the incident but did not provide further details.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] third time?

[Bares] They are working on it.

[Reporter] What can you tell us?

[Bares] Nothing, nothing yet.

[Reporter] It seems two U.S. citizens were involved?

[Bares] We still cannot confirm it. We are working on everything. Later we will provide a news release. Okay?

[Reporter] Okay.

[Bares] Do not worry, we will give you the information. [end recording]

This is the second incident of this nature that has taken place at the Presidency. One person was killed in the first incident. On that occasion the president was away. There are no official reports on persons wounded or killed as a result of this latest incident. The investigation so far has not yielded further information. Reports from witnesses indicate, however, that the individuals were white and blond, and may have been drunk.

Press Secretariat on Incident

PA2909234290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2215 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Panama City, 29 Sep (DPA)—The Panamanian Press Secretariat reported today that after Charles Frazier, a U.S. Army member stationed on Fort Clayton in Panama, crossed over the security cordon that controls the access to the parking lot of the presidential palace, security officers fired at his vehicle.

According to the bulletin, Frazier, "who apparently was lost," disobeyed the order of the Presidency guards to stop and crossed the first security checkpoint at the main entrance of the Presidency. A Presidency guard fired three times at the lower section of the vehicle in an attempt to stop it.

The incident occurred a few hours after President Guillermo Endara flew to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

The official note added that another security guard at the second control point also fired three times at the lower section of the vehicle because the American again disobeyed the order to stop. After traveling 250 meters, the vehicle then rushed into the Bay of Panama surrounding the Presidency.

According to the Presidency, Frazier suffered head injuries and his vehicle was seriously damaged.

"The authorities are investigating the incident as the Canal Treaties stipulate. Initially, however, everything seems to indicate that this is a traffic case," the bulletin said.

In May, after Endara's trip to Washington and rumors of a coup had circulated, members of the president's personal guard killed his godson and valet, Javier Sebastian Cubillas.

Residents who live near the Presidency said that members of the elite force who guard the Presidency fired at the vehicle at least five times before it crashed.

Argentina

Presidents Create Integration Group; Gulf Viewed

PY2909164490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1136 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Caracas, 28 Sep (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez have created a joint committee to establish a common position on U.S. President George Bush's Initiative for the Americas proposal. The two presidents also expressed their satisfaction over the bilateral trade agreements discussed yesterday at Miraflores Palace in Caracas.

Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo said that "a general agreement" was reached and that "the commissions of the two countries will meet in Uruguay next November to prepare a great basic agreement to be signed in March 1991."

Toledo reported on the meeting just before President Menem delivered a speech to a Venezuelan congressional committee in the legislative palace in Caracas. Toledo said Menem was satisfied with the meetings "to discuss the free zone proposal" made by President Bush, which was publicly supported by the Argentine Government right after it was announced.

Perez said that "there are good relations between the two countries in words" but "they should be made into concrete deeds."

Menem said that the agreement with Venezuela represents a "leading case" [preceding words in English] in Latin America. The same opinion was expressed by Beatriz Febres Cordero, president of the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute.

It was also decided to implement a consultation system for the two countries with the respective regional integration organizations. Venezuela is a member of the Andean Pact and the Cartagena Accord, and Argentina is involved in the first stage of the process of the new Southern Cone Common Market with Brazil and Uruguay.

The basic agreement includes the elimination of obstacles created by customhouse duties in the areas of food, automobiles, spare auto parts, and oil products. The ecology and maritime transportation systems were added on Menem's suggestion, while President Perez proposed the inclusion of the fishing sector in the agreement.

It should be pointed out that on the first day of his visit the media asked Menem several times about Argentina's participation in the Persian Gulf conflict. Menem said that his decision is in compliance with the UN Charter. Menem also explained that the deployment of Argentine troops, which began on 25 September when two Argentine Navy ships left for the Gulf, "does not cost Argentina anything."

Venezuela repudiated the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but proposed "a peaceful solution by the Arabs."

Alfredo Betancour Plaza, vice president of the Defense Committee, said that Venezuelan congressmen from the Copei (Social Christian Party), the main opposition party, accepted Argentina's "sovereign" decision but criticized the sending of troops, labeling it "a mistake."

The first official meeting between Menem and Perez will conclude today with the signing of an agreement on the points discussed by the committee yesterday.

Dismissed Adviser To Meet Husayn in Iraq

PY2909125090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)—Justicialist Party provincial Deputy Alberto Samid has reported that he will travel to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad "next week" to "hold a meeting with President Saddam Husayn," to whom he will extend "a message of peace—but this will be an exclusively personal matter."

Samid was recently dismissed from his post as presidential adviser by President Carlos Menem for sending 140 tons of meat to Iraq. In doing so Samid violated the government's policy of upholding the embargo imposed by the United Nations against Husayn's regime.

The controversial political leader, who hopes to be elected governor of Buenos Aires Province, reported on his upcoming meeting with the Iraqi president in a statement to the "Without Limits" program broadcast by a cable television station.

Samid said: "The meeting with Husayn has already been confirmed by the Baghdad government." He added that his trip to Iraq "is something personal, with the goal of conveying a message of peace."

Foreign Minister Denies Kuwaiti Funding

PY2909230690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1508 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Sep (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has denied that Kuwaiti authorities made any commitment to finance the Argentine ships that are heading for the Persian Gulf. He asserted that the $22 million that is needed will be supplied by a multinational fund that will be managed by the United Nations.

Cavallo said: "Kuwait did not make any commitment to deposit any sum in banks in London or New York." He asserted: "There is no delay of any kind in this regard."

A report published today in the newspaper CLARIN states that the decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf was made after a Kuwaiti envoy made assurances that the sum that was needed was already deposited at the London branch of the Argentine National Bank.

However, the money was not deposited. This has reportedly created an emergency situation since the ships were launched three days ago and the funds needed for their resupply are not available.

The CLARIN report stated: "The Defense Ministry is trying to collect the funds in Argentina. In view of this, it has urgently contacted Foreign Minister Cavallo, who is in the United States, so he can lead negotiations abroad on this."

Foreign Minister Cavallo said the newspaper report is "completely false." He added that the funds will be supplied on time, and it will be the United Nations that will manage a multinational fund.

Cavallo added: "We are carrying out proper negotiations to obtain the funds that belong to Argentina from a multinational fund."

The foreign minister also denied that the Defense Ministry had urgently contacted him.

Cavallo said that if the funds are not received on time, a money order will be issued to the ships so they can be resupplied during their voyage to the Persian Gulf, "although I doubt they have to have their hands full of money to get fuel."

Cavallo added that he "does not see" the relevance of the newspaper report because these are marginal issues in comparison with the importance of Argentina's actions." [quotation marks as received]

More Troops To Join UN Peacekeeping Force

PY2909003690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] More Army and Air Force troops are getting ready to travel to the Middle East. The members of the detachment—approximately 100 strong—were selected from various units in accordance to their expertise in the particular combat roles assigned to them.

Meanwhile, a C-130 Douglas transport plane and a Boeing 707 are being prepared for the flight to the Gulf area. Navy Captain Eduardo Rosenthal will depart for Bahrain tomorrow to participate in a coordination meeting with the commanders of the UN forces that are participating in the blockade of Iraq.

Party Expresses 'Complete Support' for Troops

PY2809231490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Sep 90 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—The Justicialist National Council expressed yesterday its "complete support" for President Carlos Menem's decision to send troops to reinforce the international blockade against Iraq in the Persian Gulf and considered that with this move "Argentina has ceased to be a spectator to become a main actor in the international order."

Council acting chairman Eduardo Menem disclosed that the situation of the Group of Eight maverick Justicialist deputies "was not discussed," but party sources stated that there were speeches in the meeting in favour of "the right to freedom of expression."

The body's executive board decided to hold a plenary meeting of all National Council members on November 9, when the new party authorities appointed after the resignation of Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero from his post as Justicialist Party chairman must be ratified.

Several party leaders stressed the need for the Justicialist authorities to "recover an active role in national political decisions and cease to be mere supporters accompanying the decisions taken by the government."

Meanwhile, the Group of Eight yesterday issued a statement bitterly criticizing the government's foreign policy and accusing Menem's administration of "being colonized by international liberalism."

The rebels described the official approval of the letter sent by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher congratulating Menem on his firmness on the Gulf issue as "shameful because it demonstrates how much this government is endangering our sovereignty and shows the degree of subordination that Argentine foreign policy shows" towards the great foreign powers. [passage omitted]

Menem, Cavallo Activities in New York Noted

PY3009213090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] New York (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem yesterday held meetings with Spanish and Italian Prime Ministers Felipe Gonzalez and Giulio Andreotti, on the second leg of his tour to Venezuela and the United States. Both European leaders expressed the interest of their governments in participating in Argentina's privatization process. Menem asked them to support Argentina at the upcoming GATT meeting in demanding the progressive elimination of grain subsidies.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo held a meeting with his British counterpart Douglas Hurd, which he described as "satisfactory," and announced that he will travel to London on October 29 to sign agreements on "investment guarantees and protection."

Hurd told Cavallo that with its decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf to participate in the UN-sponsored blockade on Iraq "Argentina is making all Latin America participate in the collective responsibility of creating a new international security order."

Menem, Gonzalez and Andreotti agreed in seeing the need for the United Nations to promote a new international security system. The three nations sent troops to the Gulf.

Menem will remain in New York until tomorrow, when he is scheduled to meet U.S. President George Bush and later travel to Washington for conversations with other U.S. officials and business leaders.

Upon arrival yesterday, Menem went directly to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where Chilean President Patricio Aylwin staged a lunch for the presidents of Mexico, Uruguay, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela and Argentina with their respective foreign ministers.

Bolivia

Paz Comments on Peru's Decision on U.S. Aid

PY2909165090 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora has noted that the struggle against drug trafficking is a very complex issue and that there is much more drug trafficking in Peru than in Bolivia. The president added that drug trafficking is tied to the deep economic crisis and that, in view of this, the Armed Forces must adopt a specific position.

Paz Zamora commented on recent events in Peru, particularly the decision by Alberto Fujimori's government to reject U.S. aid on the terms that were proposed.

Paz Zamora said: I believe they made this decision after taking into consideration all the characteristics inherent in Peru. But this is quite different from the situation in Bolivia. Commenting further, the president said that there was much more drug trafficking in Peru than in Bolivia and that this involves complex issues.

Some countries have expressed concern over the recent signing of agreements with President Bush by countries involved in the struggle against drug trafficking and coca-producing countries.

Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez has said that the Bolivian Government is closely following events in Peru in view of that government's recent decision.

Paz Denies Rumors on Armed Forces Changes

PY2909154090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has denied rumors on possible changes within the Bolivian Armed Forces.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Paz Zamora] ...according to the Constitution, the president, in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has the authority to designate commanders of the Armed Forces. I am going to fulfill that responsibility, as I have done from the very beginning of my government.

I consider part of our democratic training to be for people to understand that, according to the internal rules of the Armed Forces, some changes or promotions are due to take place at the end of every year, and this could have caused these rumors. This shows that our democratic practices are still weak; it is normal to make some changes at the end of every year. But there is no reason to raise so much noise prematurely based on rumors or gossip.

For this reason I want to call upon the people to understand that the constitutional system provides for decisionmaking at a given time and to not believe in rumors, which are indeed only rumors. From what I have been told, no one knows the source of these rumors.

We must learn how to gradually overcome the habit of spreading rumors within our democracy. This is what I want to tell you. I will adopt the necessary measures, in my capacity as captain general of the Armed Forces, and I have to see that they function well, as I said on the day of my inauguration, strictly respecting the natural chain of command, institutions, and military rules.

[Reporter] Do you think that some political problems might have some influence [passage indistinct] for the promotion of colonels to generals?

[Paz Zamora] Not as far as I am concerned. I have made a commitment, and I know the military sector's situation. I am the son of a military officer. But my objective is to respect anything having to do with life in the military institution. I understand the contents of the rules and the fact that they advocate respect for hierarchy.

It is possible that some members—and this usually takes place in any institution—may have expressed some concern over the approach of the period of change. This can happen to anyone in any profession. [end recording]

Brazil

King Husayn Asked To Help Citizens in Iraq

PY3009225890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1338 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 30 Sep (EFE)—It was reported today that Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello has asked King Husayn of Jordan to try to get the Iraqi Government to grant, in the next few hours, exit visas to 82 Brazilians in that country.

Collor telephoned King Husayn from New York and talked with him for seven minutes. King Husayn called back hours later to tell Collor that there will be a quick solution to the problem of the Brazilian citizens in Iraq.

Collor has been in New York for the past week. He attended the opening ceremonies of the UN General Assembly and the World Summit on Children.

Another group of 173 Brazilians have already been granted visas to leave Iraq, but local authorities have decided that they should leave only when the other 82 do so.

Over 100 Brazilian citizens have left Iraq since the beginning of the crisis in August.

Last August, after the failure of traditional diplomatic negotiations, President Collor sent a telegram to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asking the Iraqi president to let the Brazilians go. Then two weeks ago Collor sent a special mission to Baghdad. The mission was headed by Ambassador to London Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima.

CNEN To Administer Nuclear Policy, Programs

PY2909173890 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Sep 90 p 16

[Text] Brasilia—Under the new restructuring program proposed by President Fernando Collor de Mello, the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN) will administer both nuclear policy and nuclear programs. This information was announced by Pedro Paulo Leone Ramos, representative of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE), in a lecture he gave at the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

On that occasion, the SAE secretary emphasized that "the CNEN is now directly responsible for all projects in the Brazilian nuclear program." Ramos added that "the administrative changes that have been made are intended to bring the Brazilian nuclear program into full view."

Discussing the intensification of nuclear cooperation with Argentina, Ramos said that "the Brazilian Government wants to participate in international cooperation aimed at promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes." He asserted that the Brazilian and Argentine Governments will cooperate in observing the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

In the opinion of CNEN President Jose Luis Santana, Brazil should open its nuclear installations to the Argentines so that this reciprocity will prevent the risk of both countries developing nuclear energy for belligerent purposes.

In his Vienna lecture, Ramos said that all Brazilian nuclear installations and activities will come "under the scrutiny of the National Congress, which will establish the priorities in our program."

Military officers working in the nuclear sector have not paid much attention to President Collor's announcement in the United States that Brazil is working on a project to manufacture nuclear weapons known as the Solimoes Project. They were surprised at the announcement and insisted that "Brazil is only developing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

CNEN sources said they had no knowledge about such a program but would like to have more information on the Solimoes Project and its development. At the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Association (ABEN)—a civilian organization of nuclear experts in the country—President Collor's announcement even caused indignation on the part of some experts. They now want to know how $100 million could be invested in a project without the community having any knowledge of it. A nuclear physicist said: "In a sector that lives with outstretched hands, such an amount of resources could not have gone unnoticed."

Former CNEN President Rex Nazareth Alves said yesterday that he did not know about the existence of the Solimoes Project. Physicists working for the CNEN under its new president, Jose Luis Santana, made similar statements. The SAE-dependent CNEN, headquartered in Brasilia, is coordinating all nuclear projects under the parallel program administered by the Armed Forces since the 1970's.

Chile

Aylwin Given High Rating in Political Poll

PY2809173590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0039 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 27 Sep (EFE)—According to survey results released today, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who is a member of the Christian Democratic Party, is the country's most popular political figure. Aylwin had a 5.63 rating on a scale of one to seven.

The survey was conducted by the Institute for the New Chile, and polled 680 people on political and economic matters.

Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley was second in popularity with 5.11 points, followed by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss with 5.10.

The most popular opposition figure was Sergio Onofre Jarpa, a senator from the center-rightist National Renewal Party [PRN], with 4.03 points.

Former President General Augusto Pinochet, current army commander in chief, was given only 3.12 points in this survey.

The Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church was rated the most popular institution with 5.45 points, followed by the government with 5.36 points, and the Carabineros (militarized police) with 5.21 points.

The Christian Democratic Party was the most popular party with 5.40 points, followed by the Party for Democracy with 5.00 points, while socialists, radicals, and the PRN received similar ratings, over 4.20 points.

The people surveyed were also asked about the country's economic situation; 38.2 percent described it as "bad," and only 6.9 percent said it was good.

Concerning human rights, 79.6 percent of those surveyed agreed on the need for those charged with human right violations under the previous military regime to be prosecuted as individuals, not as members of the Armed Forces.

Carabineros on Arrest of Lautaro Front Members

PY2809200490 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Carabineros have arrested three more members of the Lautaro Front, who were involved in holdups in which one Carabinero died and another was wounded.

Prefect Colonel (Bruno Ritter) reported that the detainees are Sergio Vazquez Barrientos, 20; Ester Alfaro Gonzalez, 35; and Luis Pena Saavedra, 28. He added that the detainees participated in at least seven criminal actions between June 1989 and August 1990, among them a holdup of stores on San Diego Street, where First Corporal (Carlos Lamosa Arce) was murdered, the looting of stores in the 14th block of Vicuna Mackenna Avenue, and a frustrated attack and looting of the (Egas) supermarket in Recoleta, where a Carabineros lieutenant was wounded.

Minister Criticizes International Rights Court

PY2909021890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido has said that the international court that will meet next month in Brussels to hear cases of human rights violations during Augusto Pinochet's military regime does not have enough legitimacy.

Cumplido made these remarks at the end of the religious ceremony that is regularly held at the chapel in La Moneda Palace.

[Begin Cumplido recording] I have always said that I am not in favor of the so-called Nuremberg trials. I think such trials distort the truth and are against human rights because the defense is restricted—besides, these courts create types of crimes specifically designed for each case. This is absolutely contrary to common law. Such a Nuremberg trial does not have enough legitimacy. [end recording]

Cumplido added that the government has clearly stated that cases on human rights violations must be tried in Chilean courts and that he will fully cooperate with this. [passage omitted]

Amnesty Law Ruled Applicable to Human Rights

PY3009212290 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The Supreme Court has issued a unanimous decision rejecting the appeal filed by attorney Alfonso Insunsa questioning the applicability of the law of amnesty.

The Supreme Court has therefore upheld a 27 August decision reiterating the applicability of the amnesty law in cases involving the arrest and disappearance of people. We recall that the decision provoked a series of negative reactions, including some from the government. On that occasion Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido stressed the gravity of the decision because it upheld a series of contradictions. Alfonso Insunsa said that the decision set a precedent and established the impunity of all those involved in cases of people who were arrested and remain missing.

The petition asked that Law 2191, better known as the amnesty law of 1978, be declared inapplicable to the case of the arrest and disappearance of 70 people between 1974 and 1977. The military court had previously dismissed the case, but Insunsa appealed to the Martial Court.

After the Supreme Court rejected the petition, Insunsa filed two more petitions asking for confirmation and clarification of the decision. The court unanimously rejected the first petition. The second petition on clarification was rejected with one vote in favor, that of Justice Rafael Retamal. Retamal said that he favored a clarification of the decision but supported the rejection of the case. Justices Roberto Davila, Osvaldo Faundez, and Luis Maldonado only added notes to the petition for clarification.

The rejection of the two petitions put an end to the legal fight to prevent the applicability of the law of amnesty to the case of the arrest and disappearance of 70 people.

FPMR Forces Radio To Air Subversive Message

PY2909172490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] A group from the terrorist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front has forced its way into the Radio La Clave studios and ordered its personnel to air a recording of a subversive proclamation.

This incident took place last night at about 2200 at the Radio La Clave studios at 1393 Augusto Avalle and Pocuro Avenue in the Providencia neighborhood. The terrorists were in the studio for 10 minutes. The terrorist proclamation referred to the current government, General Augusto Pinochet, late President Salvador Allende, the poor, and violence, of course.

Colombia

Hired Killers Reportedly in Bogota, Cali

PA2809135290 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Bogota—Colombian authorities and state security entities are on alert because of the possibility that killers hired by the so-called Medellin Cartel may be in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department, and in Bogota to carry out criminal actions. This was stated by National Police Director General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla, who added that the massacre of 19 persons on a farm in the rural area of Candelaria Municipality, in Valle del Cauca

Department, indicates that the war between the Medellin and Cali Cartels has flared up again.

General Padilla noted that, according to intelligence reports, several killers from Medellin, Antioquia Department, could be in Cali or Bogota to carrying out terrorist actions. For that reason, the National Police will take steps to prevent any disruption ofpublic order. He concluded his remarks by saying that, following the Candelaria murders, the authorities have launched an operation in the region and have captured three individuals, who are under investigation to establish their connection to the multiple murders.

Meanwhile, in La Estrella Municipality, Cali, [four-second break in reception] persons in Candelaria Municipality, Colonel Rodrigo Milla Bautista, Cali Metropolitan Police Commander, disclosed. He made those remarks following a preliminary investigation that led to the arrest of four [figure as heard] individuals, allegedly responsible for the mass murders, and the seizure of weapons and uniforms used exclusively by the Colombian Armed Forces. Colonel Millan Bautista said that it seems the killers were hired by a man identified as Brandy Munoz Mosquera, alias Tyson, who is presumably connected to organized crime in Antioquia. Also, the first confidential news of the day is that the children of several former presidents and presidential candidates have left the country for security reasons. Three or four persons have left the country, heeding the advice of the authorities.

Extraditables Deny Claims by Spokesman

PA2909212990 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Sep 90 p 1A, 8A

[Communique issued by "The Extraditables" in "September 1990"]

[Text] COMMUNIQUE FROM "THE EXTRADITABLES"

1. On 20 September 1990 unknown people called some media in the country using our organization's name.

2. It is not, it has not been, and it will not be our custom to make anonymous calls to any media in the country.

3. "The Extraditables" are a clandestine political-military organization that does not use the name of any person for its actions or communiques.

4. We want to say that we are willing to attain peace, a fact that was stated seven years ago, and that we do not accept Decree 2047 because its author does not even consider that people selected for extradition might be innocent, and besides there is no reason to think that extraditions will be suspended as long as Colombians are still being sent to the United States." [end quote marks as published]

"The Extraditables," September 1990.

ELN, FARC Reportedly Promoting Strike

PA3009175590 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Sep 90 pp 1A, 8A

[Text] The Army of National Liberation (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have reportedly launched a major political offensive in Arauca by promoting a civil strike that is under way in that oil region.

With the 15-day strike, the guerrillas seek to recover a position between national public opinion and the regional peasants, following the damage to their credibility generated by the assassination of Monsignor Jaramillo.

This was disclosed by a ranking source at the Government Ministry, who cited a report by the 2d Army Brigade noting that an alliance of FARC and the ELN seeks to counter government actions in the area.

The source also charged that the Arauca Intendancy community is the target of intimidation by the ELN, which forces it to participate, threatening it with deaths or the loss of property, in the aforementioned civil strike.

The 15-day strike in Arauca has affected four municipalities and threatens to unleash public disorder. Any hope of reaching an agreement in the middle Magdalena region that would permit lifting the strike that is causing serious losses to the region has been dismissed.

The situation in the northeastern region is one of expectation, although military authorities insist that the region is under control and complete guarantees were given that things would return to normal.

In Arauca, the most complicated situation existed in Saravena, because provisions were becoming scarce and the agrarian commission in the township threatened to march on the capital, since no arrangement had been made.

Colonel Fernando Gonzalez Munoz, the intendant, recently accused the mayors of being responsible for the strike that affects the townships of Saravena, Arauquita, Tame, and Fortul. He accused them of being prevaricators.

Col. Gonzalez' position caused the strike promoters to become more radical.

According to the mayors, no commission has reached these townships to even try to arrange an agreement, despite the fact that a list of petitions was issued on the condition of the region.

There were serious protests on 23 September at the government building in Saravena, and the protesting farmers insisted on maintaining the strike.

Meanwhile, a possible agreement between a Santander government commission and Patriotic Union and guerrilla groups that operate in the region insist on the presence of law enforcement officials to seek solutions to the conflict.

Although the conflict is being handled from Barrancabermeja, where agrarian commissions that are promoting the strike are based, it is not only affecting Santander, but Bolivar and Antioquia as well.

The agreement, according to Jose Vicente Villamizar, government secretary of Santander, should also involve assigning responsibility to the section administrations of the two bordering departments.

David Tolosa, vice president of the regional peasants association, said that the strike would not be lifted until there is a decision to withdraw the region's mobile brigade and an end is found to the hostilities involving the Army in Yondo and San Pablo.

They are also requesting that a special commission be formed to investigate alleged abuses by the Army, which is accused of being responsible for the peasant exodus.

It was announced yesterday that San Vicente de Chucuri and other municipalities, such as El Carmen, will join the strike.

EPL Commander Restrepo Dies of Heart Attack

PA2809004290 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] EPL [Popular Liberation Army] Commander Gustavo Restrepo died yesterday after suffering heart failure. The EPL member was a commander for the urban front, and had been participating in the peace talks with the government.

Restrepo died in a hospital in Santa Rosa de Osos, where he had been taken after suffering heart failure. He had been a part of the rebel movement for more than 15 years. Over the past few months he had been a member of the EPL High Command, which is currently participating in peace negotiations with the government. The rebel commander will be buried today at the EPL camp.

Ecuador

Guerrillas Willing To 'Finish Off' Pinochet

PA2909211690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0640 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Quito, 27 Sep (AFP)—The international guerrilla movement "America Battalion" announced in Quito today that they were willing to "finish off" Chilean Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet if that action was requested by the Chilean Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front." [quotation marks as received] The proposal was made by a man who said he was an American Battalion spokesman. This man called international news agencies accredited in Quito to relay the message.

The caller also reported that a bomb had been placed in the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry. The alarm turned out to be false, but the building was evacuated.

The America Battalion is made up of rebel forces from Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. According to the caller, the guerrillas' threats are aimed at refuting the statements of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who ended a two-day official visit to Ecuador on 26 September.

Aywlin said that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigates human rights violations committed during General Pinochet's administration (1973-1990), will present its report at the end of this year or early next year. However, the Chilean president added that according to the separation of powers, justice for Pinochet must be administered by the Judicial Branch. The Executive Branch cannot assume the role of prosecutor in this matter.

President Signs Agreement With Chilean Leader

PA3009171190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0146 GMT 27 Sept 90

[Text] Quito, 26 Sep (DPA)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin today ended three days of talks here with the signing of a joint declaration and three agreements that "initiate a new era of friendship" between the two countries.

At the end of President Aylwin's 52-hour visit, Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said that "it is friendship based on cooperation."

Aylwin left this afternoon for New York, where he will participate in the UN General Assembly, on the second leg of his 10-day tour that will conclude in Mexico.

According to the Chilean Foreign Minister, at the end of their meetings, the two presidents signed agreements on the antidrug struggle, cooperation in social and cultural matters, and legalizing the status of Chilean immigrants in Ecuador. He said that the meeting had been held in a climate "of complete cordiality and concurrence in viewpoints."

Presidents Borja and Aylwin also signed a joint declaration reviewing the international situation. They expressed their concern over environmental pollution, and the need for "equal access" to new technological advances. They also ratified their membership in the Organization of Pacific Basin Countries.

The two presidents also expressed their support for regional forums, in a clear reference to the Group of Rio, formerly called "The Group of Eight," which Chile and Ecuador will join on 12 October during the regional summit meeting to be held in Caracas.

The group will then be comprised of nine members—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

During his stay in Quito, Aylwin had a busy schedule, including three working meetings with his Ecuadoran colleague Rodrigo Borja, a meeting with the Chilean-Ecuadoran Chamber of Commerce, two official receptions, a meeting with the large Chilean community in Quito, and several protocol ceremonies.

The Chilean Foreign Minister, evaluating the Ecuadoran-Chilean summit meeting, said: "It was a very important visit, because an old friendship has evolved into new cooperation. The two governments had maintained very close contacts since President Aylwin assumed power."

President Rodrigo Borja and his entire Cabinet went to the Quito International Airport to bid farewell to the Chilean delegation, among whom were the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, ministers, legislators, and advisers.

Paraguay

Confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Requested

PY2909231090 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Sep 90 p 62

[Excerpt] Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche reported this morning that President General Andres Rodriguez signed a note to the Chamber of Deputies requesting confirmation of the appointment of Dr. Carlos Victor Khon as new Supreme Court justice. If confirmed, Kohn will replace the former justice, Dr. Benito Pereira Saguier, who has been appointed Paraguayan ambassador to Uruguay.

Minister Estigarribia told the press that President Rodriguez also signed a similar note requesting confirmation of the appointment of Dr. Carlos Miguel Goiburu Vera as attorney general. Goiburu Vera currently holds the position of legal counsel at the Social Security Institute. [passage omitted]

Cuban Labor Leader Denied Entry Visa

PY2909014490 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Sep 90 p 13

[Text] The government yesterday prohibited the entry of Cuban labor leader Joaquin Bernal Camero, arguing that our country does not have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The incident was denounced and repudiated by the United Labor Federation (CUT) which a few weeks ago had requested a visa for the executive member of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC).

A document released by CUT yesterday says: "We denounce and repudiate the refusal by the government of General Rodriguez to grant a visa to Companero Joaquin Bernal Camero, secretary of the CTC international relations department."

Our government's denial reveals that the old Stroessnerist doctrine "on ideological borders" is still in effect. This doctrine hurt and isolated the country and "hundreds of compatriots were tortured, exiled, or killed in its name," the communique adds.

The Cuban labor leader had planned to stay in our country a few days to meet with CUT leaders within the framework of the fraternal relations that the CUT maintains with various labor organizations around the world.

The document charges that Foreign Under Secretary Hugo Saguier delayed for several days the response to the petition on behalf of the Cuban labor leader.

Peru

Deputy Lopez Reportedly Kidnapped by MRTA

PY2909021090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The police have intensified their operations throughout the city to locate Deputy Gerardo Lopez after a picture sent by his kidnappers appeared in a local daily.

National Police General Director Adolfo Cuba y Escobedo said that the police are carrying out a house-to-house search to find the deputy.

The possibility that Deputy Gerardo Lopez is in the hands of a subversive group became more real when a local daily published a picture of the deputy sent by the terrorists. This report was not confirmed by Lopez' relatives. The house-to-house police search continues. Several people were arrested but without any positive results.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What about the investigation of the whereabouts of Deputy Gerardo Lopez?

[Cuba y Escobedo] The investigation continues. We cannot provide any major details. We hope the kidnappers will soon be arrested.

[Reporter] Are any members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] under arrest?

[Cuba y Escobedo] We have several people under arrest. I cannot give details now. We will release an official report later.

[Reporter] According to a press report published today Deputy Lopez was not kidnapped. He is being held as an intermediary for talks with the government. What do you think of that report?

[Cuba y Escobedo] You just said that it is press report. I know nothing about it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Communique Issued on Kidnapping

PY3009023490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The media have received a communique from the subversive group that kidnapped Deputy Gerardo Lopez six days ago. The communique says Deputy Lopez was invited to hold talks on the country's economic, political, and social situation. The communique adds that the results of the talks will soon be known by the national media. [passage omitted]

The communique came from the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement]. [passage omitted]

Government Announces Public Wage Increases

PY2909031490 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Sep 90 p 10

[Excerpt] In an attempt to improve the purchasing power of the people's salaries, which has been markedly affected by the drastic increase in last month's prices, the government again granted a 4.5-million-inti increase to public employees. Nonunionized workers were granted a 15-percent increase, and the minimum wage was increased from 16 million to 25 million intis. The increases are retroactive from 1 September.

The new increases add to those granted in August to help the people absorb the impact of the measures aimed at stabilizing the economy. They were announced yesterday by Prime Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller after a long meeting with the other members of the Council of Ministers, who approved the increases in view of the inflation rate for the month of September.

In a news conference granted shortly before he left for the United States, where he will conclude the negotiations aimed at reinstating Peru in the international financial community, Hurtado Miller said that the experts estimate that the September inflation rate will be 4.6 percent. He said this is a good sign and that it shows that the economic program is going well.

Minister Hurtado Miller added that this rate reflects the price increases that occurred from 1 to 30 September. He said that the rate calculated by the National Statistics Institute would be 12.9 percent because the institute uses an accumulative methodology based on the previous month's prices. He added that despite the low inflation rate, the government decided to grant the increases to benefit the working class. [passage omitted]

Commander Reports on Operation, Arrest in Tocache

PY2809141490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a quick and effective operation, the Army has arrested a Shining Path logistics commander in Tocache [San Martin Department] and confiscated a large amount of weapons, ammunition, and accessories.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] How was the operation carried out, commander?

[Unidentified Army commander] Good morning, Channel Seven. We have been carrying out several military operations in the past year. We rely on a lot of intelligence information. The population gave us a lot of information for this operation; we evaluated it and decided to immediately deploy four patrols to (Cahuides) and (Chapaja). You can see all the materiel we confiscated in the operation.

During this operation we clashed with approximately 200 subversive criminals who offered strong resistance. We managed to arrest one of their logistics commanders. This operation was important mainly because of the amount of weapons we confiscated in the Alto Huallaga [San Martin Department] area.

[Reporter] Did the Shining Path or the Army suffer casualties?

[Commander] The Army did not suffer any casualties, but the Shining Path terrorists suffered five.

[Reporter] How long did the operation last?

[Commander] It was a lightning operation that lasted about 24 hours.

[Reporter] What is the name of the logistics commander who was posing as a rich farmer in this community but turned out to be a Shining Path member?

[Commander] His name is (Hermes Sinalaya), and was also known as Comrade Silva.

[Reporter] Where is he?

[Commander] He is currently under arrest and is being investigated. He will then be placed at the disposal of the court according to the law. [end recording] [passage omitted]

State of Emergency Extended in Yurimaguas Province

PY2809135990 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The government extended the state of emergency in Yurimaguas Province, San Martin Department, for 60 days due to the subversive situation in the area.

Venezuela

Menem Justifies Sending Ships to Persian Gulf

PA3009153590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1920 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Caracas, 28 Sep (AFP)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has told a Caracas television station that sending an Argentine destroyer, a corvette, and 300

Argentine soldiers to the Persian Gulf marks the "necessary reinsertion" of his country into the new international order.

Menem, who on 27 September began an official visit to Venezuela that will last until 29 September, said that the new international order was initiated by the United Nation's decision to decree, with the sanction of the superpowers, a naval and air blockade against Iraq.

He said: "Our ships will be behind the front line, and the cost of the operation will be borne not by Argentina, but by the United Nations or Kuwait." Menem said that Buenos Aires "could not ignore Iraq's act of arrogance."

The two Argentine warships left on 25 September, two days before Menem began his visit to Venezuela on the first leg of a tour that will take him to the United States to speak before the UN General Assembly and to meet with President George Bush, people close to Menem have said.

Regarding the Argentine privatization process, which includes railroads, oil enterprises, electricity, health institutions, and the national airline, Menem said that this policy will reduce the foreign debt to "exactly half" of what it is now—that is, from $60 billion to $30 billion.

Menem said that the sale of Argentinas Airlines to the Spanish airlines Iberia will be concluded "in cash" this week. Concerning the debt, he said: "Our negotiations with the IMF are going well, and we also expect to succeed in our negotiations with the Paris Club."

During his visit to the Venezuelan Congress, Menem said: "Argentina wants to speak up and actively participate in the international economic arena." He noted: "With this main objective in mind, severe and significant structural changes are being made in the Argentine economy, the old paternalistic state is being dismantled, and the pace toward reform is being hastened to get closer to the international markets."

Regarding the region and President Bush's Initiative for the Americas, Menem said it is necessary to create a Latin American common market and a legal community before the year 1992 or, "at the latest, by the year 2000."

One of the main objectives for his visit to Caracas is to sign with Venezuela an agreement to create a bilateral commercial free zone before 1995. Menem said that these efforts are in line with Bush's call for establishing a commercial free zone "from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego."

This Friday, the most important day of his visit, Menem placed flowers at the tomb of Venezuelan hero Simon Bolivar and at the monument erected in honor of Argentine hero Jose de San Martin, at San Martin Square, in Caracas.

Afterward, Menem visited the Caracas home office of the Latin American Economic System. This organization coordinated regional aid for Buenos Aires when Argentina was the victim of an economic boycott decreed by the industrialized western countries during the Malvinas Islands war.

In the afternoon, the Argentine president will hold a second meeting with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, and then the two presidents will sign commercial agreements, an agreement memorandum, and a joint declaration.

Afterward, the two presidents will hold a joint news conference.

In the evening, Menem will offer a reception for Perez.

Menem is scheduled to leave Venezuela at 1100 GMT (0700 local time) on 29 September.

President Menem Experiences 'Cold' Reception

PY2909034890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0022 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Caracas, 28 Sep (DYN)—President Carlos Menem tonight concluded his official activities in Caracas after a very short ceremony to sign agreements establishing a future free trade zone between the two nations. The almost cold climate that surrounded his presence here did not change. Tomorrow Menem will depart for the United States where he will stay four days.

Menem and Carlos Andres Perez signed a joint declaration and a memorandum of understanding during a ceremony at Government Palace. The ceremony lasted barely three minutes, and the two presidents did not exchange a single word except for the final greetings after signing the documents.

Neither did Perez accompany Menem—as was scheduled—during the news conference at the Miraflores Palace. The news conference was originally planned as a joint conference.

Members of the Argentine delegation explained that plans were changed because the Venezuelan president had to administer the oath of office to his new interior minister at the same hour.

During his visit to Caracas, Menem repeatedly explained the reasons why he decided to send troops to the Persian Gulf, an issue that dominated the local press.

Menem also repeatedly defended his opinion about the importance of the "Initiative for the Americas" proposed by George Bush. The Venezuelan Government has given the initiative a rather lukewarm reception.

Menem denied that his government expected some "concession" for his participation in the blockade on Iraq and asked: "What can we ask of the United States when their economic situation is worse than ours?"

Menem also said: "Argentina can expect the same concessions as Italy, Spain, or any other country that sends troops to the Gulf."

Menem denied that there was a contradiction between the Argentine experience during the Malvinas conflict when Argentina had to face the great world powers and the decision to send troops to the Gulf. Menem pointed out that "the memories from the Malvinas conflict cannot stop Argentina still in time."

Asked about the benefits that the United Kingdom could offer Argentina for its participation in the blockade Menem said: "We do not need anything from England."

Menem confirmed that Argentina is taking steps to sell Venezuela 24 Pucara planes. The president said that the planes "are available for Venezuela" and that the deal depended on a final decision by the Venezuelan Government.

Menem said that he asked Venezuela to speed up the negotiation of an agreement by which Argentina will refine its oil in this country. The president, however, could not specify the volume of oil in question.

Menem will depart for New York tomorrow at 0700. In New York the president will have luncheon with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and will meet with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

During the afternoon Menem will hold a news conference. During the evening the president will participate in a reception with the other heads of state who participate in a summit at the United Nations.

Menem, Perez Sign Joint Statement, Memorandum

PA2909221690 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0005 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem and President Carlos Andres Perez signed today a joint statement and a memorandum of understanding for a future free trade agreement.

The two documents were signed at the end of Menem's visit. Menem will fly to New York to attend the United Nation's World Summit for Children.

In the joint statement, both presidents expressed satisfaction regarding the regional integration process and emphasized the benefits of the Southern Cone and Andean Group exchanging experiences. According to the document, the two presidents said that the OAS should encourage a political dialogue in the Western Hemisphere by strengthening its status as an effective instrument for consolidating democracy.

Finally, the two presidents outlined the basis for a commercial free trade agreement and marked 31 December 1995 as the deadline for implementing the agreement.

Foreign Minister on Avoiding Energy Crisis

PA3009172790 Paris AFP in Spanish 1719 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 26 Sep (AFP)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo made statements at the UN headquarters today. He partially blamed industrialized nations for the abrupt petroleum price increases, which have doubled since the Persian Gulf crisis began.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister stated: "If we want to avoid an energy crisis, we must make a concerted effort." Venezuela is the largest exporter of crude oil in Latin America and an OPEC member.

"If industrialized nations use their strategic petroleum reserves, they could contribute toward stabilizing prices," Figueredo added. The United States, Venezuela's main petroleum buyer, has an estimated reserve of 700 million barrels of petroleum.

Figueredo stressed that Venezuela was one of the countries that had increased its production "within the OPEC guidelines" to help avoid the energy crisis.

When Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn's troops invaded Kuwait on 2 August, Venezuela was producing two million barrels per day [bpd], but its full capacity is two and a half million bpd.

Foreign Minister Figueredo noted that the inordinate price increase per barrel of petroleum was not caused by OPEC. The reasons for the price increase were a tense "spot" (cash) market and the fact that industrialized nations with huge petroleum reserves had still not used them to maintain stability on the international market.

Today, the U.S. market has virtually stabilized. A barrel of West Texas crude was quoted at $37.70, up 17 cents from 25 September, when in London, a barrel of Brent crude momentarily surpassed the $40 psychological barrier.

However, a U.S. Oil Institute official has told AFP that the U.S. strategic oil reserves have been saved to face an oil shortage, which is not yet the case. He said that the U.S. oil reserves are not meant to be used to influence prices. This could result in very serious consequences, because all exporting countries have to do is decrease production to correct the trend.

Meanwhile, Figueredo stressed that Venezuela and Mexico, the two main Latin American oil exporters, "are very cognizant of the harm the increase in the price of crude oil is causing for developing countries."

Figueredo pointed to the San Jose Agreement, signed by Mexico and Venezuela with some Central American and Caribbean countries, to allow them to meet their oil needs more easily.

Figueredo said, "We believe that industrialized countries should help us share this responsibility."

He suggested using the U.S., Canadian, West European, and Japanese oil reserves to lighten the burden of developing countries in this crisis.